



CURRENT AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY - 2023

STATE NEWS

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on 31 January announced that Visakhapatnam will be the new state capital.
- Earlier in 2015, the then CM N Chandrababu Naidu had declared that Amaravati would be the new capital. However, in 2020, the state planned to have three capital cities — Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool.
- In March last year, the Andhra Pradesh High Court ruled against three capitals and told the government to develop Amaravati, which has become the centre of a land scam.



Here are 7 unique factors of the new capital:

- 1) Two ports
- 2) First naval shooting range
- 3) 'Jewel of East Coast'
- 4) First submarine museum in South Asia
- 5) Oldest shipyard in India
- 6) 'INS Arihant' built in Vizag
- 7) RRR's Alluri Seeta Rama Raju hails from Vizag

20th Edition of Bio Asia 2023 scheduled in February 24-26:

The 20th edition of Bio Asia 2023 will be hosted by the Government of Telangana, the premier event of Bio Asia 2023 for the life sciences and health tech, on February 24-26, 2023. Bio Asia 2023's logo and theme, "Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanised healthcare," have been unveiled by Minister for Industries and Commerce KT Rama Rao.

Bio Asia 2023: Venue

Hyderabad has been a significant hub for the world over the past two decades in addition to being India's centre for healthcare and the life sciences and Bio Asia 2023 will be held there.

The city enhanced its reputation during the COVID-19 pandemic by playing a crucial part in providing vaccines that helped immunise the entire world, and will now host Bio Asia 2023.

About Bio Asia 2023 Event:

In order to discuss the interdisciplinary topics of One Health, disruptive technologies in healthcare, and accessibility and affordability in healthcare for all, Shakthi Nagappan, CEO of Bio Asia and Director (Life Sciences), Government of Telangana, says that "Bio Asia 2023 will bring together leaders in the life sciences and healthcare, academia, start-ups, regulators, and investors on one stage".

The Bio Asia 2023 event will feature a start-up showcase where more



than 100 carefully chosen health-tech entrepreneurs from around the globe can present their ground-breaking solutions to urgent medical problems.

With a virtual attendance of around 37,500 attendees from about 70 countries, Bio Asia 2022 was a great success. Bio Asia 2023 is expected to deliver the same.

Churchgate Railway Station in Mumbai will be renamed as CD Deshmukh:

The Churchgate railway station in Mumbai will soon be called as 'Chintamanrao Deshmukh station', named after the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) CD Deshmukh. The first national executive meeting of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction, which was declared the original Shiv Sena by the Election Commission last week. The meeting passed a resolution to rename the Churchgate railway station after the former RBI governor and Union Finance Minister CD Deshmukh.



About the CD Deshmukh

Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh, also known as C D Deshmukh, was the first Indian Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. He joined RBI in 1939 and served as its Secretary to the Board, Deputy Governor and the Governor. In August 1943, he was appointed as Governor of the RBI and served in that position till 1949. Deshmukh is one of the eight Deputy Governors of the Bank who have gone on to become its Governor.

Born on January 14, 1896, in Nategaon, Maharashtra, CD Deshmukh completed his education at the University of Bombay, where he studied economics and statistics. In 1915, he went to England for graduation in Natural Sciences. After completing his degree, he joined Indian Civil Service and served in various capacities in the British Indian government, including as undersecretary to the government, Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer and as secretary to the Secretary-General at the Second Round Table Conference of 1931, later becoming secretary to the finance and public works department.

Smart Agri project was launched in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu:

- As part of its CSR initiative, Indus Towers Ltd. in partnership with Vodafone Idea Foundation has introduced the SmartAgri Project in Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- The project aims to transform conventional agricultural practices into smart ones and to enhance the livelihoods of small farmers through sustainable farming approaches and the deployment of IoT solutions.
- This project will be implemented in Coonoor, Gudalur, Kotagiri, Kundah, Pandalur and



Uddhagamandalam Blocks benefitting more than 10000 farmers across 193 villages in the district.

- The program was attended by S.P.Amirth IAS, District Collector-Nilgiris and M. Muthukumar IAS, Executive Director - Tea Board, Coonoor who shared valuable insights on the prospects of this initiative and appreciated the efforts of Indus Towers.
- The project in Nilgiris will enable farmers with smart and informative decision making, which will increase production, improve crop quality, reduce water consumption and operational costs, and lead to better utilization of resources.
- The IoT based farm equipment namely, automatic weather stations, soil probes, insect traps, and crop cameras have been placed. These technology features will provide farmers with information about critical elements of farming like soil and air quality, wind speed and direction, the number of insects and pests in the field, and the rate of crop growth.
- The farmers included in this project will also be provided regular support through training on good agricultural practices, they'll receive real-time and localized advice about critical agri-inputs for their crops as well as agricultural news from markets, and about government policies and schemes.
- They will also have access to farm advisory in Tamil via their mobile phones and the option to listen to such advice - for those who find reading a challenge. Through this timely advisory they will be able to take precise measures and become equipped to apply the right inputs at the right time to their farmland.

LS speaker Om Birla inaugurates 19th Annual Zone III CPA Conference in Sikkim:

Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 19th Annual Zone III Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region in Gangtok, Sikkim on Thursday. Delivering the inaugural address, Mr Birla said that the legislature, as a forum to solve people's problems, must be the centre of unhindered debate sans disruption which will increase peoples' faith in democratic institutions, thereby strengthening our democracy. He emphasized on discussion and dialogue, observing that it is the biggest strength of democracy.

Speaking on the economic potential of the northeastern states, Mr Birla said that there are huge possibilities in the field of tourism, renewable energy, organic farming and handicrafts. He also emphasised on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the North East through projects under Gatishakti, Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region and multimodal connectivity, among others, which has transformed the vision of Look East to Act East.

Speaking on subjects of the Conference, Mr Birla said that cyber bullying is relevant today as it affects the youth, who are the future of the nation. He said that it is the responsibility of lawmakers and citizens to deliberate on the challenge and create awareness to address it. He said, information technology should be used to improve efficiency in governance and improving lives of people but at the same time safeguards should be taken to protect institutions and people from its demerits.



Speaking on drug abuse, Mr Birla said that the issue is not only present in the North East region, but across the country. Referring to discussions on drug abuse in the Parliament in December 2022, Mr Birla said that after a detailed discussion, it emerged that members must conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign across the country to educate the youth. He urged all to work with a collective spirit to end the growing problem of drug abuse and work towards a drug-free India.

Gujarat Budget report 2023-24:

The Finance Minister of Gujarat Kanubhai Desai presented a State Budget of Rs 3.01 lakh crores recently in the legislative assembly. This is 23% higher than the previous year's budget. No new taxes were introduced, Several schemes were announced during the budget and the schemes were part of the 2022 election promises made by the BJP. 17.76% of the total budget allocation was made to the agriculture department. 21.36% for education; 15.08% for Energy; 8.71% for transport; 5.49% on social services; 8.54% on health and family welfare; 15.43% on water supply and urban; 5.89% on social welfare and nutrition

Budget allocation are

- Five high-speed corridors: Rs 1,500 crores
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya – MA: Doubled to Rs 10 lakhs from Rs 5 lakhs
- Rs 18,000 crores allocated for the Ahmedabad Metro train project
- Rs 10,000 crores for eco-tourism and heritage
- Two gas cylinders free of cost to 30 lakh families every year
- Rs 905 crores for metro projects in Ahmedabad
- Rs 1415 crores to build the Bhadhut reservoir
- Rs 150 crores to develop Sabarmati riverfront
- Rs 640 crores to develop new fishing ports
- Rs 76 crores to develop GIFT city
- Rs 27 crores for GIR sanctuary; Two more lion safaris will be added.



India's first state to introduce the robotic scavenger to clean sewages:

Kerala became the first state in the country to use robotics technology for cleaning all its commissioned manholes by pressing into service the robotic scavenger Bandicoot in the temple town of Guruvayur.

Bandicoot is inducted under the Guruvayur Sewerage Project by Kerala Water Authority (KWA), as part of the 100-day action plan of the State Government. Commissioning of manholes is the process of connecting households, hotels and other establishments to the network of sewerage system.

Bandicoot, developed by Kerala-based Genrobotics, is already in use in urban bodies across the country, phasing out the practice of sanitation workers physically entering the manholes. Genrobotics has recently bagged 'Kerala Pride' award at the Huddle Global 2022 conclave organised by the Kerala Startup Mission.

Kerala Minister for Water Resources Roshi Augustine inaugurated the deployment of Bandicoot in the Municipality. He said the launch of robotic scavenger in Guruvayur Municipality marked a major step towards use of technology-driven solutions for manhole cleaning across the state.

Smart manhole cleaning system:

With the Bandicoot's deployment, all the commissioned manholes have been transformed into robotic revolution. A special team of KWA officials will be constituted for the operation of robotic cleaning in Guruvayur. The modernisation of sewerage system will help contain the spread epidemics and serious health challenges caused by them, the Minister said.

MK Vimal Govind, Director of Genrobotic Innovations said Bandicoot will be cleaning all the commissioned sewerage and drainages in Kerala as the State has embraced the smart manhole cleaning system.

Bandicoot robots are currently deployed in 17 States and three Union Territories. In 2018, KWA started using Bandicoot to clean the manholes in Thiruvananthapuram. Later, it was introduced in Ernakulam, also.

The robotic Tron Unit, which is the major component of Bandicoot, enters the manhole and removes sewage using robotic hands, similar to a man's limbs. It has waterproof, HD vision cameras and gas sensors that can identify harmful gases inside the manhole.

20th Edition of Bio Asia inaugurated in Hyderabad:

The 20th Edition of 'BioAsia', Asia's largest Life Sciences and Healthcare Convention, was inaugurated by Telangana Industries & IT Minister K Taraka Ramarao in Hyderabad on Friday. This year's theme is 'Advancing for One to celebrate the spirit of collaboration and promoting human prosperity'.

Inaugurating the Summit, the Minister said COVID-19 pandemic proved the value of collaboration, as the world came together to overcome one of humanity's greatest healthcare challenges. He said Bio Asia played a crucial role in the development of Life Sciences industry in the country.

The three-day global forum will witness active participation of government dignitaries, business executives, scientists, researchers, and other delegates of global repute.



Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 begins in Maharashtra

Sitar player Ustad Sujaat Hussain will perform along with tabla players Amit Choube and Mukesh Jadhav today in a three-day Ellora -Ajanta International Festival 2023 in Chatrapati Sambhajnagar Maharashtra.

Drum player Padamshri Shiv Mani, Sitar player Ravi Chari, Piano player Sangeet Haldipur, Khanjira player Selva Ganesh, bass guitar player Sheldon DeSilva and Aditi Bhagwat will also perform on kathak dance.

Yesterday evening, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Karad inaugurated this festival.

The Government of Maharashtra's Minister for Employment Guarantee Scheme and horticulture Mr. Sandipan Bhumare and Minister for Co-operative and marketing Mr Atul Save, were present on this occasion

The festival is organised at the historical place Soneri Mahal, which is under the campus of the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad city.



International Bioresource Conclave and Ethnopharmacology Congress 2023 held at Imphal:

Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) is an autonomous Institute under Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India Imphal, Manipur, having its other center and nodes in Gangtok, Sikkim; Aizawl, Mizoram; and Shilong, Meghalaya. The institute is working on Bioresources development and their sustainable use through biotechnological interventions for the socio-economic growth of the region with the major goal of scientific management of bioresources in the Indian region falling under Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.

Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE), India is a registered society under the West Bengal Society Registration act and also affiliated to the International Society for Ethnopharmacology. The society was formed in 2013 and has made its presence throughout the country, which provides networking opportunity for development and promotion of medicinal plants and ethno pharmacology. The Society works on dissemination of knowledge in this area through different local chapters made in different parts of India with the major goal on “Globalizing local knowledge and localizing global technologies.”

International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) is an International scientific organization of researchers dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of the pharmacological actions of plants, animals,



insects, and other organisms used in medicines of indigenous and modern, past and present cultures. The major objective of the ISE is to promote Ethnopharmacology as a scientific field of research. The society is dedicated to the exchange of information and understandings about people's use of natural products and their bio-prospecting.

Major Highlights of the Congress:

- Globalization of Traditional Medicine: Tradition to Translation
- Dissemination of knowledge for promotion of AYUSH drugs
- Exploring medicinal plants, ethnopharmacology and traditional practices.
- Identification and documentation of medicinal plants and traditional resources
- Evidence based validation of traditional medicine
- Ethnopharmacology conclave
- Traditional health care practices
- Ethno veterinary medicine
- Evaluation of safety, efficacy and quality of botanicals
- Ethnopharmacology in drug discovery and development
- global perspectives
- Phytochemical, pharmacological, antimicrobial evaluation of medicinal plants
- Analytical techniques for quality control and standardization
- Bioprospecting of natural products – an approach towards drug discovery
- Integrative approach in promotion and development of traditional medicine
- Development and evaluation of herbal formulation
- industry institute partnership
- Bioeconomy from bioresources
- perspectives of medicinal plants and traditional medicine
- IP rights, patents and regulatory affairs of medicinal and aromatic plants
- Conservation & propagation of medicinal plants

Maharashtra: Aurangabad district Administration develops special mobile App for G20 delegates:

In Maharashtra, Aurangabad district administration has developed a special mobile app 'G20 Aurangabad' for the convenience of delegates arriving for the G-20 inception meeting scheduled in the city on 27th and 28th of this month. More than 150 delegates are expected from the G20 countries.

The App will provide information to the delegates about the arrangements made for them in Aurangabad city and details about the inception meeting and other programmes. Information on tourism and heritage monuments like Ellora Caves, Ajanta Caves, Aurangabad Caves, among others is also available on the app, in English, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese and other languages with photographs.

Names of organising committee office-bearers with their contact numbers and helpline numbers have also been made available on the app.



Assam: Union Ministry of Ayush's first Chintan Shivir inaugurated by Sarbananda Sonowal:

Union Ministry of Ayush first “Chintan Shivir” was inaugurated by Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal at Kaziranga National Park, Assam.

The minister talked about tremendous potential of Ayush sector and exhorted young researchers and scientist to work on evidence based scientific research and explain the benefits and research of Ayush system of medicine in native languages so that it reaches larger masses.



Indian Railways plan to introduce Bharat Gaurav train towards Northeast:

Indian Railways will launch Bharat Gaurav Train to North East on the 21st of this month. The AC deluxe Bharat Gaurav train will cover Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya in 15 days, said the Indian Railways.

The theme for the North East circuit is “North East Discovery: Beyond Guwahati”. It said the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train which is set to depart from the New Delhi Safrdurjung Railway Station, can accommodate a total of 156 tourists and are air-conditioned with AC 1 and AC 2 tiers.

The first stop of this train is Guwahati where tourists will visit Kamakhya Temple and Umananda Temple.

As a safety measure against the COVID-19, the Railways Ministry has made mandatory full vaccination for guests of age group 18 or above. All the other booking details are available on the IRCTC web portal.

The ticket price range starts from 1,06,990 per person rupees in AC 2 Tier, 1,31,990 rupees per person for AC 1 cabins, and 1,49,290 rupees per Person for AC 1 coupe.

The ticket is inclusive of train journeys, hotel stays, all vegetarian meals, transfer costs and sightseeing in respective cities, and travel insurance, among other costs. Tourists can also avail of an EMI payment option for the trip, as IRCTC has partnered up with PayTm and Razorpay payment gateways.

Boarding and de-boarding will be allowed from Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Itawah, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

The Indian Railways launched the Bharat Gaurav scheme in 2021 to provide a fillip to Indian tourism and attract tourists from all over the world. The scheme promotes “theme-based” train services that will be run by private players.



World's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier installed on Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha:

The world's first 200-meter-long Bamboo Crash Barrier has been installed on the Vani-Warora Highway in Vidarbha in Maharashtra making it an extraordinary accomplishment towards achieving Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.

Named Bahu Balli, this Bamboo Crash Barrier, underwent rigorous testing at various government-run institutions such as the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX) in Pithampur, Indore. It was rated as Class 1 during the Fire Rating Test conducted at the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) in Roorkee. Additionally, it has also been accredited by the Indian Road Congress. The recycling value of the bamboo barrier is 50-70 percent whereas that of steel barriers is 30-50 percent.



It is a remarkable achievement for the bamboo sector and India as a whole, as this crash barrier offers a perfect alternative to steel and addresses environmental concerns and their aftermath. Furthermore, it is a rural and agriculture-friendly industry in itself making it an even more significant milestone.

Uttar Pradesh State has introduced 'UP Rahi' app:

Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) [India], March 4 (ANI): With the aim of improving the state's transport system, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, launched a ticket booking and passenger feedback app — 'UP Rahi', which will allow passengers to make online reservations while sitting at home.

A press release by the government stated that, in addition to allowing users to pre-book bus travel from the comfort of their own homes, this app also offers cashless services. Not only this, but the passengers will also be able to give their feedback on the problems related to their journey, the behaviour of the driver-conductor, the condition of the bus, and other related issues on the app.

With the introduction of this app, lakhs of passengers of the state travelling in the bus will now be able to travel hassle-free. From the Google Play store, passengers can download the app. Along with English, the app is also available in Hindi, the release added.



UPSRTC General Manager IT Yuzvendra Kumar said that through this app, passengers will be able to book tickets through digital mediums. However, they will need to register themselves first

after downloading the app. They will be able to use all the features of the app once they have registered.

The most important feature is regarding ticket booking in this app. Currently, one can purchase a ticket while riding on a bus using cash or a digital device. However, this system has numerous issues. When it came to cash, there were times when the conductor ran out of change and the passengers had to pay more. The network issue had to be dealt with frequently in cashless transactions.

“With the introduction of the app, you will get rid of all these hassles. To purchase tickets through the app, users can use a QR code, UPI, credit card, debit card, or any other digital payment method. Passengers will not need to take a printout of the ticket after booking the ticket. They can travel by showing the status of ticket booking on the app itself,” he said.

The book ‘India’s Vaccine Development Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri’ by Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav has been published:

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya released the book ‘India’s Vaccine Growth Story – From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri’ by Shri Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary to the Government of India at the 2023-World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan.

The book describes India’s impressive achievements in developing, manufacturing and distributing Covid-19 vaccines.

Bus for street children launched in Thane:

A special bus for street children where they can get educational and counselling facilities was rolled out here.

Thane district collector Ashok Shingare launched the bus, named "Bal Snehi,.

It is an initiative of the Women and Child Welfare department, to be run through an NGO. Such buses will also be introduced in Pune, Nashik, Nagpur and Mumbai, officials said.

Every bus, with capacity to accommodate 25 children at a time, will visit six places in the district and have a counsellor, teachers and a care taker.



Tamil Nadu’s State Women’s Policy will be launched on March 8:

Chief Minister M.K.Stalin will announce the special policy for women, which includes various aspects related to women’s development and security, on March 8, 2023.

Reducing female dropout rates and creating at least one thousand female researchers every year will be the main goals of the Women’s Policy.



The 11th World Tamil Research Conference will be held in Malaysia:

The 11th World Tamil Research Conference of the International Institute of Tamil Research (IATR) will be held in Malaysia from 21-23 July 2023.

This conference will be held to help Tamil scholars and other language scholars from all over the world to know the excellence of the Tamil language and excellence in other languages.

The First World Tamil Conference was conducted in the year 1966 in Kuala Lumpur. Tamil is one of the oldest languages with glittering history, rich literature and exquisite language



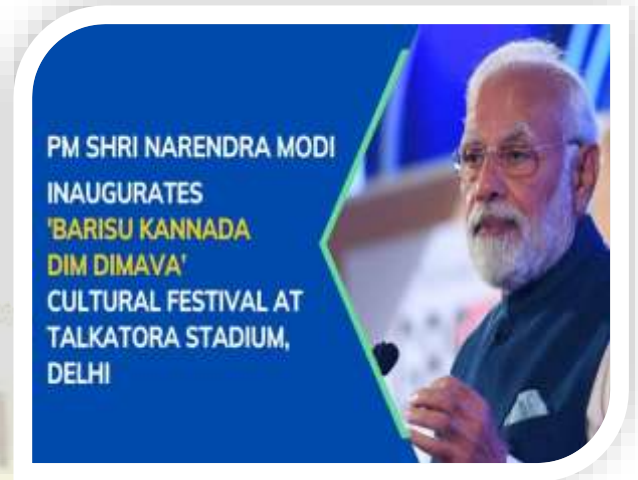
Official title	Host city	Host country	Year	Arranged by
1st World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	1966	Thani Nayagam Adigalar
2nd World Tamil Conference	Chennai	India	1968	M. Bhaktavatsalam and C. N. Annadurai
3rd World Tamil Conference	Paris	France	1970	
4th World Tamil Conference	Jaffna	Sri Lanka	1974	
5th World Tamil Conference	Madurai	India	1981	M. G. Ramachandran
6th World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	1987	
7th World Tamil Conference	Port Louis	Mauritius	1989	
8th World Tamil Conference	Thanjavur	India	1995	J. Jayalalithaa
9th World Tamil Conference	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	2015	
10th World Tamil Conference	Chicago	USA	2019	International Association for Tamil Research, FeTNA & Chicago Tamil Sangam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimava' cultural festival at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on 25 February:

An overview of the news:

- The festival is organised under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and celebrates the culture, traditions and history of Karnataka.

- In line with the Prime Minister's vision of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**', the 'Barisu Kannada Dim Dimva' cultural festival is being organized to celebrate the culture, traditions and history of Karnataka.
- Held under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the festival will provide an **opportunity to hundreds of artistes** to showcase the cultural heritage of Karnataka through **dance, music, drama, poetry etc.**



Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:

- The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was launched by the Prime Minister **Modi on 31st October, 2015** on the occasion of the **140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
- This programme is a unique initiative by the Government to promote the **spirit of national integration and to strengthen the fabric of emotional bonds between the people of our country.**
- Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT for a time period, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

31st edition of New Delhi World Book Fair commences at Pragati Maidan:

The 31st edition of New Delhi World Book Fair has commenced at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday. The 9-day mega fair was inaugurated by Minister of State for Education Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh. Several literary and cultural activities focusing on the theme 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', will be the part of the fair. More than two thousand stalls have been set up and more than one thousand book publishers are participating in the fair. France has been designated as the Guest of Honour Country.



The G20 theme has been integrated with the New Delhi World Book Fair and exhibitions of books from G20 member has also been displayed at the G-20 pavilion. Besides, National Education Policy Pavilion, Ed-Tech Zone, YUVA author corner, Foreign Pavilion, Children's Pavilion, Authors Corners and Lekhak Manch are the centre of attraction for the book lovers.

Many seminars, conferences, book releases, literary and cultural programmes as well as various business-to-business events will be held on the sidelines of the book fair. During the fair, Publications Division is showcasing its 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' books collection, highlighting country's freedom movement and remembering the freedom fighters who devoted their lives to the

nation. Besides books, Publications Division's popular and widely circulated journals such as Yojana, Kurukshetra, Aajkal and Bal Bharti are also available at the stall. Visitors can also purchase annual subscriptions of journals and Employment News or Rozgar Samachar published by the Division. The special complimentary Mann ki Baat booklets can also be collected from its stall. The Division is also offering its premier Rashtrapati Bhavan series of books as well as speeches of Presidents, Vice Presidents and Prime Minister at the fair.

The timings of the fair will be from 11 AM to 8 PM and the people can enter the fair from Gate Numbers 4 and 10. Entry is free for school children, senior citizens and the differently-abled.

A 16th-century hero stone has been discovered in the Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu:

A 16th-century hero stone was found during the field survey at Karupaiyanaalli village in Pennagaram taluk of Dharmapuri district.

This hero stone depicts a warrior with royal armbands holding a large sword rose above his head in his right hand and holding a horse in his left hand.



A Sangam age frozen wells have been discovered on the banks of Tenpenny River in Villupuram district-Tamilnadu:

More than 25 frozen wells dating back to the Sangam period have been found in the field survey carried out by the archaeologists on the banks of the Tenpenny River at Perangyur and Pitakam Kuchipalayam near Villupuram.

At present the frozen wells found in Barangyur, Pitagam Kuchipalayam Tenpenny River belong to stratified type. These frozen wells are set up to meet the water needs of the people during droughts.

There are 2 types of cisterns one is plug type cistern and the other is stratified cistern.



India's first semiconductor manufacturing unit to be built in Dholera of Gujarat:

Ahmedabad, Feb 20: A joint venture of Indian conglomerate Vedanta and electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn has finalised the Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad city of Gujarat for setting up their semiconductor and display manufacturing facility, a senior state government official said on Monday.

In the biggest ever corporate investment in the history of independent India, a joint venture of Vedanta and Foxconn in September last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government to invest Rs 1,54,000 crore to set up the plant in the state. This will be the first manufacturing facility for semiconductors in India.

At that time, the joint venture company had not disclosed the exact location of the facility.

"After a detailed site analysis in consultation with Gujarat government authorities, the joint venture entity of Vedanta and Foxconn has selected Dholera SIR for setting up their semiconductor and display manufacturing facility. The project is in the advanced stage of evaluation by the government of India," the official said.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches Learning-Teaching Material 'Jaadui Pitara' for Foundational Stages:

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a Learning-Teaching Material called 'Jaadui Pitara' for Foundational Stages in New Delhi on Monday. Under the National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage - 2022, this unique initiative of the government will help students of foundational stages learn in a play-way method with ease. The 'Jaadui Pitara' comprises of playbooks, activity books, flash cards, posters depicting various stories, games, puzzles, puppets and many more items.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr Pradhan described this day as historic for the National Education Policy. He informed that initially this initiative will be kicked off in a pilot project manner in only 50 Central schools, but later, for next academic session, 1200 central schools across the country will receive this box for students in foundational stage.

The Minister said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself laid a great emphasis on how to teach students of primary level and this initiative after being a part of the National Education Policy 2020 will help realize his vision.

On the occasion, Mr Pradhan also called upon NCERT to publish all its books for primary to secondary level in other Indian languages along with Hindi, English and Urdu.



Former Gujarat governor Om Prakash Kohli passed away

Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Former Gujarat governor Om Prakash Kohli passed away on 20th February 2023 at the age of 87.

Kohli was the 19th governor of Gujarat from 2014 to 2019. He also served as governor of Madhya Pradesh and Goa.



Country's first marina to be built in Karnataka's Byndoor

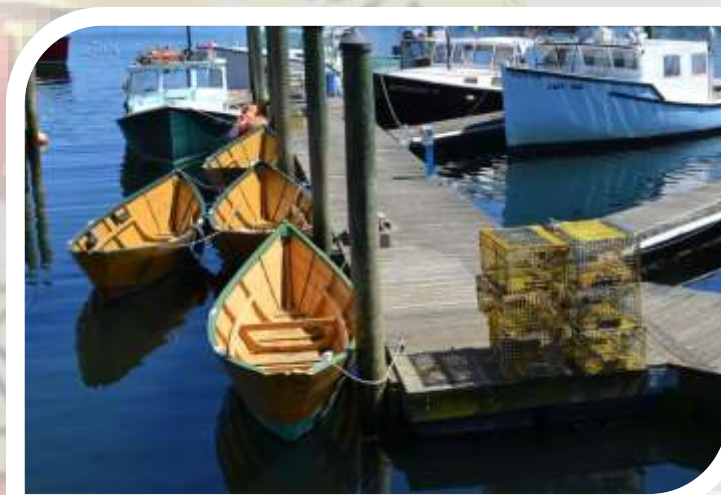
The Karnataka Government will build the country's first Marina or a boat basin offering dockage, at Byndoor in Udupi district to promote coastal tourism in Karnataka.

Additionally, the Benakal area and Anjanadri Hill will be developed along with a scheme to pay a monthly honorarium of ₹ 5000 to the recognized tourist guides.

To complete the construction, the Karnataka Government has chalked out a scheme and would pay a monthly honorarium of Rs. 5000 to the recognized tourist guides.

Furthermore, additional facilities would also be provided to all the tourists coming to Udupi for Marina.

Karnataka has a 350 km coastal area, 10 different weather zones, 400 km of the Western Ghats, a rich bio-diversity where the sunrays will be there for 300 days, and several rivers.



Tamil Nadu's Ramnad Mundu Chillies, Vellore Spiny Brinjal Awarded GI Label

Due to their distinctive morphological and geographic traits, two new products from Tamil Nadu — the Vellore Spiny Brinjal and Ramanathapuram Mundu Chillies — have been awarded the prestigious Geographical Indications (GI) label.

With this, there are now 45 items from Tamil Nadu that have received GI recognition, moving the state up to the second place. The state of Karnataka has the most GI tags, at 46. Kerala, with 36 GI items, is in third place.

Vellore Spiny Brinjal

The Vellore Spiny Brinjal or Elavambadi Mullu Kathirikai in Tamil, is an unusual, thorny native variety that is grown in a particular region. The vegetable is oval in shape and has a dorsal end that is tinged with green and a lustrous shade of pink and violet.

A single spiny brinjal weighs about 40 grams on average and has a shelf life of three days at room temperature and about a week in a refrigerator. 2 per cent Protein and 10.5mg per 100g Vitamin C levels in Spiny Brinjals, which are high. It is regarded as being tastier than other brinjal types and needs specialized farming or cultivation methods to yield a decent crop.

It possesses a special ability to fend off insect and disease threats. Except for the fruit, every component of the brinjal plant has thorns, which gives the harvest its characteristic and identifiable appearance. It is a cluster-bearing type with soft, meaty fruit that matures in about five months and yields 45-50 tonnes per acre.

It is ideal to bake, grill, fry, roast, steam, or even pickle the Vellore Spiny Brinjal. Together with Briyani, brinjal serwa, sambar, side dish and snacks, could be a mouth-watering dishes. It has a special connection to the agro-climatic conditions in the Vellore region and a great endurance for heat and drought.

Moreover, late Chief Minister Karunanidhi prominently noted and described the Vellore brinjal when inaugurating the Vellore Farmers' Market several years ago. The spiny brinjal has been grown at Elavambadi, Echangadu, Poikai Putur, and more than ten neighboring villages in the Anaikattu taluk of the Vellore district for more than ten generations.

Meanwhile, the brinjal cultivated here is distributed to Solingar, Seiyaru, Tiruvannamalai, and Arani from the Vellore Integrated Vegetable Market. Additionally, according to the dealers, Elavambadi eggplants are also being exported and sold in Chennai. The arrival of the GI tag, which the farmers had long demanded for the Elavambai Spiny Brinjal, has made the Tamil Nadu farmers ecstatic.



Ramnad Mundu Chillies

As far as Ramnad Mundu Chillies concerned, Mundu, which translates to round and fat in Tamil, is a member of the *Capiscumannum* genus. It is a round-shaped chilli that is used as a food coloring and is widely utilized in South Indian cuisine. It is a directly seeded, rain-fed crop with a dark lustrous, and thick skin.

Moreover, it has a great tolerance for salinity and drought. Farmers use the seeds from their previous crop for the following season, making it a minimal input crop. Commonly, Mundu Chillies are primarily grown in the Ramanathapuram district's Tiruvadana, Mudukulathur, Kadaladi, RS Mangalam and Kamuthi taluks.

Kerala, UN Women sign pact to boost women-friendly activities in tourism:

The Kerala government on Sunday entered into an agreement with the United Nations (UN) Women to boost women-friendly activities in the State's tourism sector.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by Kerala Tourism and UN Women India agreed to work towards promoting gender-inclusive tourism sites in the State.

The MoU was signed by Kerala Tourism Director P B Nooh and UN Women India representative Susan Ferguson and it would be implemented by the Responsible Tourism Mission, a government release said.

"As per the pact inked at the first-ever Global Responsible Tourism Summit in Kumarakom near this city, both parties will promote women-friendly tourism in Kerala.

This will be done by creating modules and capacity-building of relevant stakeholders, besides providing advisory support for baseline research, implementing women-friendly tourist destinations and supporting interventions to change prevalent discriminatory social norms," the release said.

Kerala Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas, who inaugurated the four-day summit, said the MoU was in continuation of the State government's renewed efforts towards women-friendly tourism since October last year.

"We will ensure good female participation in tourism initiatives and allied services besides RT (Responsible Tourism) projects. The idea is to promote tourism with focus on women empowerment," he is quoted as having said in the release.

Ferguson is quoted as having said that women merited encouragement to work in tourism so as to instill a sense of security among the travellers to the State.

"More jobs to women in key slots will not only generate employment but curtail the prevailing gender inequality," she said.

The conclave features 280 delegates and 70 speakers.



NATIONAL NEWS

1st G20 Education working group meeting begins in Chennai:

- The G 20 education working group began its deliberations at Chennai this morning. The meeting was inaugurated by Union Minister of State Dr L.Murugan.
- The focus of the deliberations will be on ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy, especially in the context of blended learning. Making tech-enabled learning more inclusive, qualitative and collaborative at every level. The remarks will be made by Indonesia, Brazil, and other countries. Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the United Arab Emirates will be the guest countries attending the education working group.
- In his inaugural address, Dr Murugan said that India's presidency in G 20 has given the opportunity for the member countries to underline common priorities, reiterate common commitments and evolve common action for improving the reach, quality and outcomes of education.
- He quoted Prime Minister's vision on the aim of the Presidency to strive for just and equitable growth for all in a sustainable holistic responsible and inclusive manner. He told that the aim of the working group is to work collectively and evolve solutions that will help all countries



and societies to strengthen their education systems and attain the targets under the UN Sustainable development goal 4.

- He told that India attaches great importance for collaboration between G 20 members in education and other fields. He called for all countries to work together to build a common future keeping education as the focal point for addressing the common challenge.
- Later, addressing the media, Dr. Murugan said that India was an educational hub and it was a big opportunity for Tamil Nadu and Chennai in particular to show the ancient heritage and culture.
- AIR Correspondent reports that Chennai, the capital of Tamilnadu is all decked up for the G 20 event. Banners and posters on welcoming the guests could be seen all over the city. The delegates were given a warm welcome at the venue. Artisans from all over the State are present at the venue to showcase the artefacts and also the traditional methods of making it.
- Traditional millets and cereals have been kept for display at the venue. After the first session, the delegates will be leaving for an excursion to Mahabalipuram which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ratri Bhoj par Samvad will be the event for the end of the day.

G20 in News (Note – All Meetings are Under the Presidency of G20 by India):

- India's first Model G-20 Summit inaugurated by – India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant
- First Employment Working Group Meeting – Jodhpur (2 – 4 February 2023)
- First International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting – Chandigarh (30 – 31 January 2023)
- Startup 20 Engagement Group Meeting – Hyderabad (28-29 January 2023)
- First Meeting of the Youth-20 Group – Guwahati (6 – 8 February 2023)
- First G-20 Environment Meeting – Bengaluru (9 -11 February 2023)



Bengaluru to host first G20 Energy Transition Working Group meeting:

- The first G20 Energy Transition Working Group (ETWG) Meeting under India's Presidency will begin in Bengaluru from 5 February, the Ministry of Power said.
- The meeting will have over 150 participants including G20 member countries and nine special invitee guest countries – Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, UAE and Spain. Karnataka will extend support and coordination for the meeting.
- Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh will deliver



keynote address of the three-day event. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi will give special address.

- The first ETWG meeting will focus on six priority areas — Energy transition through addressing technology gaps, Low-cost financing for energy transition, Energy security and diversified supply chains, Energy efficiency, industrial low carbon transitions and responsible consumption, Fuels for Future (3F), and Universal access to clean energy and just, affordable, and inclusive energy transition pathway.
- The Energy Transitions Working Group while retaining focus on achieving energy transition, will emphasize on addressing technology gaps and financing to ensure that it is delivered across countries in a time-bound and affordable manner without compromising the energy needs of the communities.
- The expected outcomes of the deliberations would include agreement to advance cooperation initiatives under Research and Development-20 roadmap for channelizing adequate low-cost international finance towards deployment of critical technologies, declaration on collective efforts to ensure energy security and diversified supply chains of new energy sources, roadmap for doubling global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, action plan for enhancing and promoting bio-energy cooperation, and recommendations on global best practices for supporting Just, Affordable, and Inclusive energy transitions.
- On the sidelines, a high-level international seminar on ‘Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)’ has been organized. The seminar will focus on highlighting the importance of carbon capture, utilization, and storage, considered vital for achieving net-zero targets.
- As part of the first ETWG Meeting, delegates will also visit Infosys Green Building Campus and Pavagada Solar Park to see first-hand India’s push towards renewable sector and efforts to mitigate climate change.

G20 in News (Note – All Meetings are Under the Presidency of G20 by India)

- Business-20 (B-20) Inception Meeting – Gandhinagar (22- 24 January 2023)
- Think-20 Meeting – Bhopal (16 – 17 January 2023)
- Secretariat for Science 20 (S20) Meeting – IISc Bengaluru
- G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting – New Delhi (March 2023)
- First G-20 Meeting – Puducherry (31 January 2023).

All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) has released its report for the year 2020-21:

- The Union Ministry of Education released data from the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), 2020-2021, which showed a 7.5% increase in student enrolments across the country compared to 2019-20.
- The survey also revealed that in 2020-21, the year when the Covid-19 pandemic began, there was a 7% rise in enrolments in distance education programmes.

AISHE:

- To portray the status of higher education in the country, the Ministry of Education has endeavored to conduct an annual web-based AISHE since 2010-11.
- Data is being collected on several parameters such as teachers, student enrolment, programmes, examination results, education finance, infrastructure.

- Indicators of educational development such as Institution Density, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pupil-teacher ratio, Gender Parity Index, Per Student Expenditure will also be calculated from the data collected through AISHE.
- These are useful in making informed policy decisions and research for development of the education sector.

Major Highlights of the AISHE:

Student Enrolment:

- Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for all enrolments (as per 2011 Census) increased by over 2 points to 27.3.
- The highest enrolment was seen at the undergraduate level, which accounted for 78.9% of all enrolments.
- The female enrolment in higher education programmes had increased to 49% of total enrolments in 2020-21 compared to 45% in 2019-20.
- But, the overall figures for Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics(STEM) enrolments (at all levels of higher education) showed that women lagged behind men, who accounted for over 56% of enrolments in these fields.
- Gender Parity Index (GPI), the ratio of female GER to male GER, has increased from 1 in 2017-18 to 1.05 in 2020-21.
- The number of students in the Persons with Disabilities category dropped in 2020-21 to 79,035 from 92,831 in 2019-20.
- The proportion of Muslim students enrolling for higher education dropped to 4.6% in 2020-21 from 5.5% in 2019-20.
- Uttar Pradesh; Maharashtra; Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka and Rajasthan are the top 6 States in terms of number of students enrolled.
- Universities and College: During 2020-21, the number of universities has increased by 70, and the number of colleges has increased by 1,453.
- The 21.4% government colleges accounted for 34.5% total enrolments in 2020-21, whereas the rest 65.5% enrolments were seen at private aided colleges and private unaided colleges put together.
- Uttar Pradesh; Maharashtra; Karnataka; Rajasthan; Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh; Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are the top 8 States in terms of number of colleges.
- Faculty: The female per 100 male faculty has improved to 75 in 2020-21 from 74 in 2019-20 and 63 in 2014-15.



Current Major Issues Related to India's Higher Education System:

- Faculty Shortage
- Inadequate Infrastructure
- Regulatory Issues
- Due to the budget deficit, corruption and lobbying by the vested interest group, public as well as private sector universities in India lack the necessary infrastructure.

- As a result of the increase in the number of affiliated colleges and students, the burden of administrative functions of universities has significantly increased and the core focus on academics and research is diluted.

31st Foundation Day of National Commission for Women:

- President Droupadi Murmu will address the 31st Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW) in New Delhi on Tuesday. The theme of the programme is ‘Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat’ aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the stories of women who have excelled and paved their journey to leave a mark.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani and MoS, WCD, Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai will also grace the occasion. The National Commissions, State Commissions for Women, Embassies, dignitaries from the legal fraternity, other departments and NGOs will be a part of the event. The Commission is also organising a two-day event to celebrate its 31st Foundation Day from the 31st of January to the 1st of February, 2023.
- On the second day, a Panel discussion will be held with extraordinary women who have led the path of inspiration and empowerment for several others. NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- It was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate the redressal, of grievances, and advise the Government on policy matters affecting women.



Indian Submarine docks in Indonesia for the first time

An Indian submarine has, for the first time ever, docked in Indonesia, which is among the countries locked in a maritime dispute with China in the contentious South China Sea, as part of the continuing overall diplomatic-military outreach to Asean countries. The 3,000-tonne diesel-electric submarine, INS Sindhukesari, reached Jakarta for the ‘maiden operational turnaround’ after transiting through the Sunda Strait on Wednesday. “Indian warships often visit Indonesia and other Asean countries. This first long-range deployment of a submarine underlines the operational capability and reach of the country’s underwater combat arm as well,” a senior official told TOI.

Along with the push for military ties with African and Gulf countries on one side, India has been steadily cranking up defence relations with Asean countries on the other side through combat exercises, exchanges, training programmes to operate fighters and submarines, and now increasingly weapon supplies. India, for instance, had transferred a kilo-class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar in 2020, as was then reported by TOI. Apart from BrahMos, jointly developed with Russia, India also hopes to sell the indigenous Akash missile systems, which can intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25-km, to countries like Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, among other countries. On the bilateral exercises front, India has conducted the 'SIMBEX' naval exercise with Singapore, the 'Agni Warrior' Army exercise with Singapore, 'Harimau Shakti' with Malaysia and the 'Garud Shakti' with Indonesia in recent months. With Indonesia, India also conducts coordinated naval patrols twice a year, with the last one being held along the international maritime boundary line in December.

India and Indonesia have expanded their strategic and defence cooperation in a wide range of areas, especially after inking a new defence cooperation agreement during PM Narendra Modi's visit to the country in 2018," another official said.



First MCA Barge Yard 75 (LSAM 7) was launched at Visakhapatnam:

Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 75 (LSAM 7) was launched by RAdm Sandeep Mehta, ACWP&A on 24 Feb 23 at Guttene Devi, launch site of M/s SECON, Visakhapatnam. With all major and auxiliary equipment / systems sourced from indigenous manufacturers, this Barge is proud flag bearer of "Make in India" initiative of Ministry of Defence.

Contract for construction of 08 x MCA Barge was concluded with M/s SECON, Visakhapatnam, a MSME, in consonance with "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives of the Government of India. This Barge is being built with a service life of 30 years. The availability of MCA Barges will provide impetus to Operational commitments of Indian Navy by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation and Disembarkation of articles / ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.



A new app has been introduced to know Tolkappiyam:

- Tolkappiyam was written by Tolkappiyar in Tamil.
- It is a work on Tamil Grammar.
- It also gives an idea of the Political and Social scenario at that time.
- The Tamil language was used in the Sangam Literature. Important works in the Sanskrit language are Vedas, Panchtantra, Rajatragini, and Priyadarsika.

List of most diabetes affected states in India:

- List of states with the highest incidence of diabetes in India based on national statistics
- Kerala state is ranked first (27.4%)
- Tamil Nadu ranked second (22.3%)
- Andhra Pradesh ranked third (21.1%)
- Ranking of Union Territories
- Goa ranked first (22.7%),
- Puducherry ranked second (22 %)
- Lakshadweep ranked third place (21.9%)

Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman-2023

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 and graced the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain -2023 in New Delhi today (March 4, 2023). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that water and sanitation hold a special place in the life of every citizen.

Government providing clean drinking water and sanitation facilities through initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission. She was happy to note that today more than 11.3 crore households are getting potable water from the tap.

She said that the women, who earlier used to spend time fetching water, are now utilizing that time in other productive works. Clean tap water has also shown significant improvement in the health of infants who used to fall prey to water-borne diseases like diarrhea and dysentery due to polluted water. Stressing on the need of water conservation and water management, the President said that it is a well-known fact that in our country, water resources are limited and its distribution is also uneven.

About 18 percent of the world's population resides in India, but only 4 percent of the world's water resources are available here. Moreover, most of this water is received in the form of rain, which drains into rivers and seas. That's why water conservation and its management is a very important topic for us. Today we are more dependent on institutional means for water supply than traditional means. But along with using modern techniques for sustainable water supply, revival of the traditional methods of water management and water-harvesting is the need of the hour. All stakeholders should work together for water conservation and its management.

We need to make this effort not only for ourselves but also for the healthy and safe future of our coming generations. The President was happy to note that about two lakh villages in the country have declared themselves as ODF plus villages. She said that it means that these villages have solid and liquid waste management systems in place. She emphasized on the need for proper and environment-friendly management of household wastes. She pointed that often it is seen that the solid wastes from the houses is thrown at a public place and the liquid wastes goes into water bodies. She said that it is harmful to the environment and living beings.

We should have a system in which most of the waste-materials is recycled; liquid wastes cannot contaminate underground water; and we can make manure from the left over wastes. The President said that making India a 'clean nation' is not only the responsibility of the government, but the collective responsibility of all citizens. She said that 'Jal Shakti' cannot be fruitful without 'Nari



Shakti'. United power of both these forces is needed for social prosperity. 'Jal Jeevan Mission' aims to empower women.

The President said that due to dedication and hard work being done by all the awardees in the fields of water conservation, making villages ODF plus, waste management, rain-water harvesting, India would set an example before the world community in water management and cleanliness. She urged awardees to inform people in their respective areas about the work being done in the field of cleanliness and water conservation across the country and inspire them to adopt an environmentally friendly life-style.

Yuva Utsava-India2047

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur launched Yuva Utsava-India2047 from IIT Robar, Punjab and also launched Yuva Utsava Dashboard.

Minister said that in the first phase, Yuva Utsava will be held in 150 districts across the country by 31 March 2023 to celebrate youth power.

The theme of the Yuva Utsav is Pancha Pran:

- The goal of developed India
- Removing any trace of slavery or colonialism mindset
- Take pride in our heritage and legacy
- Unity and solidarity, and
- A Sense of duty among citizens.



NTPC has topped the list of world's top independent power producers and energy traders:

1. NTPC currently contributes 24% of the total electricity produced in India
2. NTPC targets non-fossil fuel-based capacity to make up nearly 50 per cent of the company's portfolio by 2023

NTPC Limited, the country's largest power generating company has been ranked No.1 Independent Power Producers and Energy Traders Globally in the S&P Global Commodity Insights Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings@-2022. These rankings are based on four key metrics-asset worth, revenues, profits and return on investment.

NTPC is not just India's largest power producer; it is one of the key pillars sustaining India's economic growth and development. With a share of 17% of the installed capacity, NTPC currently contributes 24% of the total electricity produced in India. NTPC's goal has always been to deliver power that is economical, efficient, and ecologically sustainable. To meet this objective, it offers a diversified energy mix comprising gas, wind, solar, hydro, floating solar and coal.



By 2032, NTPC is targeting non-fossil fuel-based capacity to make up nearly 50 per cent of the company's portfolio, which includes renewable energy capacity of 60 GW and total portfolio of 130GW. In terms of scale, efficiency, and energy generation from cleaner and greener sources, the company leads the India's energy transition. It has teamed with NITI Aayog for the Net Energy Zero effort.

CSC Academy signs MoU with NIELIT to Enhance Digital Literacy and skill development in India:

CSC Academy, a subsidiary of Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Limited, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) to enhance digital literacy and skill development in India.

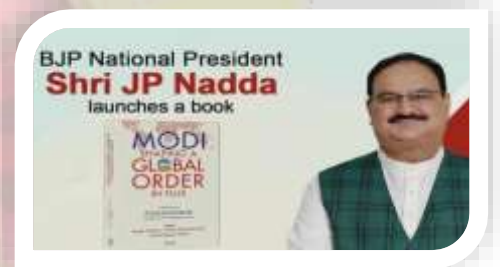
The MoU aims to develop and implement initiatives that will promote digital literacy and create employment opportunities for the youth of India.



JP Nadda launched the book 'Modi: Shaping a Global order in flux'

BJP national president JP Nadda has launched a book named "Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux" in Chanakyapuri.

This book describes that the initiatives taken by PM Modi have changed the image of our country and also how PM Modi has taken decisions that has changed the image of India across the world.



BEL signs MoU with DRDO for Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft programme:

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) Tuesday announced that it has signed an MoU with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), a laboratory of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), for the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

The MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and ADA, wherein both parties will cooperate for the development, production and supply of Internal Weapon Bay Computer and other line replaceable units (LRU) for the fighter aircraft. BEL will also provide lifetime product support to the Indian Air Force (IAF) once the induction of the AMCA happens.



Union Cabinet approves the India and Guyana ASA:

The Air Services Agreement between the governments of India and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana was approved by the Union Cabinet, which is presided over by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. After the parties exchange diplomatic notes verifying that each has completed the required internal steps for this agreement's entry into force, the Air Services Agreement will become effective.

Indians are the biggest ethnic group in Guyana, making up about 40% of the population as of the 2012 census. A framework for the delivery of aviation services between the two nations will be made possible by the signing of the Air Services Agreement with Guyana. Air services agreements have been made with numerous nations to open the door for international air connectivity considering the expanding aviation market and developments like the liberalisation of the aviation sector in India.

As per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between India and Guyana dated December 6, 2016, both countries had initialled the text of an Air Services Agreement (ASA) for scheduled air services between the two countries.

The newly signed ASA between India and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana will create the conditions for improved and seamless connectivity while giving both sides' carriers business possibilities.



Indian Council of Agricultural Research develops wheat variety to beat the heat:

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a new wheat variety which can overcome the challenges arising out due to changes in weather patterns and rising heat levels. This new wheat variety called HD-3385 is amenable to early sowing, escaping the impact of heat spikes and can be harvested before March end.

Talking to AIR News, ICAR Principal Scientist Rajbir Yadav explained the merits of this new variety and how the farmers can get good production by sowing this wheat variety.

Recently, in the wake of rising temperatures, the Centre's announced to set up of a committee to monitor the situation arising from the increase in temperatures and its impact on the current wheat crop.



India, Seychelles sign pact on information sharing in maritime security:

India and Seychelles signed six agreements in key areas, including maritime security, and on sharing of white shipping information that would enable the two countries to exchange data regarding identity and movement of non-military commercial vessels.

Maritime Security MoU:

According to the MoU, the countries will work together and improve maritime safety in the Indian Ocean Region. The safety provisions will be based on the SAGAR initiative – Security and Growth for All in the Region. With this, they will be able to correlate better and can share information in a more compressed way.

The Agreements:

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and the Department of Information Communications Technology of Seychelles on cooperation in the area of cyber security.

Significance of These Agreements:

It is essential for India to sign this agreement with Seychelles to learn about the maritime safety measures being implemented in this region. The Western Indian Ocean is governed by the “Maritime Security architecture”.

This architecture is implemented by Indian Ocean Commission. The IOC is supported by Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, RCOC, and other countries like Djibouti, Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, France, Seychelles, and Madagascar. India has no maritime agreements related to this part of the Indian Ocean with these countries except Seychelles. Even if it does, those agreements do not talk about sharing information! Thus, it is essential to sign the MoU with the country.

About Indian Ocean Commission:

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental body created in 1984 to protect the interests of the Western Indian Ocean islands.

It consists of Madagascar, Comoros, La Réunion (French overseas territory), Mauritius and Seychelles.

The Commission has five observers — India, China, European Union (EU), Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).

Union Minister inaugurates National Horticulture Fair at IIHR, Bengaluru:

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar today inaugurated the four-day National Horticulture Fair on Innovative Horticulture for self-reliance and to showcase the latest technologies developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), for the benefit of productive farmers and other stakeholders. In his address through video conference, Shri Tomar said that it is a well established fact that Horticulture plays an important role in doubling the income of farmers and providing essential nutritional security. Rapid increase in production and availability of Horticultural crops will help in bridging the gap of nutritional security of the country.



Union Minister Shri Tomar said that Horticulture production has increased 13 times from 25 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 331 million tonnes during 2020-21, which is more than the food grain

production. Constituting 18% of the area, this sector contributes about 33% of the gross value to the agricultural GDP. The sector is being considered as a driver of economic growth and is gradually turning into an organized industry linked to seed trading, value addition and exports.

Horticulture has a significant contribution in the export of agricultural products worth more than Rs. Four lakh crore. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government gives priority to agriculture and farming, therefore, in the budget of the year 2023-24, many major provisions have been made for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The objective of the budget is inclusive and comprehensive development of farmers, besides the poor and middle class, women and youth. It emphasizes on promoting modernization of Agriculture sector by linking agriculture with technology so that farmers can get wider benefits in the long run.

He said that Rs 2,200 crore has been allocated in the budget for the development of Horticulture sector, especially for AatmaNirbhar (self-sufficient) clean plants programme. With this provision, efforts have been made to promote the availability of disease free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops. Along with this, the Horticulture sector will also get huge benefits through the Cluster Development Programme.

The Prime Minister has taken the initiative to make Natural Farming a mass movement, for which a provision of Rs 459 crore has been made. In 3 years, 1 crore farmers will be given financial aid for Natural Farming, for which 10,000 bio input research centers will be set up. Budget provision has also been made for farmers to make full use of technology. FPO is a revolutionary step in the direction of raising the standard of living of Small and Medium Farmers, the benefits of which have started flowing to these farmers. Horticulture FPOs are also becoming beneficial for the farmers.

10 days art festival called Taj Mahotsav held in Agra:

Uttar Pradesh higher education minister Yogendra Upadhyaya inaugurated the 10-day festival of art, crafts and culture, Taj Mahotsav, during a colourful function organized at Agra's Shilpgram.

The festival has been celebrated since 1992 by the Tourism department. The theme of the event is "Vishwa Bandhutva," and about 300 artisans from various states and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Bihar, and Himachal Pradesh, are participating in the event.



IDEX and NAVDEX 2023

IDEX/NAVDEX are two leading regional naval and defense exhibitions to be scheduled from February 20th to 24th in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

In that exhibition, INS Sumedha is to participate in the exhibition and it's the third ship of the indigenously built Saryu class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPV) and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 07 Mar 2014.

IDEX/NAVDEX is the leading international defense exhibition and conference in the Middle East and North Africa region, showcasing the latest technologies for land, sea, air and space applications.

NAVDEX – Naval Defence Exhibition

IDEX – International Defence Exhibition



India's first indigenous Automatic Train Supervision (i-ATS) has been launched in Delhi:

DMRC and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have jointly developed India's first Indigenous-Automatic Train Supervision (i-ATS) system has been launched by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

After France, Germany, Japan, Canada, and China, now India has also become the sixth country that has its own i-ATS products.



List of States in Wind and Solar Power Generation was published:

The Central Department of Renewable Energy has released the list of solar and wind power generation capacity in every state in the country as on 31st Jan, 2023.

In that list

Rank	Wind power generation	Solar power generation
1	Tamil Nadu, 9,964 MW	Rajasthan, 16,353 MW
2	Gujarat 9,918 MW	Gujarat, 8,747 MW
3	Karnataka 5,269 MW	Karnataka, 8,018 MW
4	Maharashtra 5,012 MW	Tamil Nadu 6,497 MW
5	Rajasthan, 4,681 MW	–



INDIAN AIR FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE COBRA WARRIOR AT WADDINGTON IN UK

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors departed Air Force Station Jamnagar today for participating in Exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air Force Base of the Royal Air Force in United Kingdom. The exercise is scheduled from 06 Mar 23 to 24 Mar 23.

The Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral Air exercise in which Air Forces from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF.

The IAF is participating in the exercise this year with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globemaster III and an IL-78 mid air refueller aircraft. The aim of the exercise is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces.



MISHTI Scheme For Mangrove Plantations:

Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes', MISHTI, will be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands

Mangroves:

- The Mangroves cover 0.15% of the total Indian Geographical area.
- This is around 4,975 square kilometers.
- The state of West Bengal alone has 42.45% of India's mangroves. Indian mangroves are facing limitations such as an increase in salinity, lack of oxygen, and diurnal tidal inundations.
- The main aim of the scheme is to take up mangrove plantations along the coastline and to preserve Mangrove forests
- Meaning, mangrove saplings will be planted along the coastal regions of the country.
- Mangrove forests are spread across AP, WB, Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- Mangrove forests are present in all the coastal states of India.
- MISHTI is to be implemented by converging CAMPA Fund, MGNREGS, and other sources.
- CAMPA Fund means Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.



NAMASTE (National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme: Union Budget 2023: In the Union Budget 2023, the Government of India allocated Rs 100 crores for the NAMASTE scheme.

The GoI aims to mechanize septic tank cleaning and sewer cleaning in towns and cities.

The scheme aims to provide an alternate livelihood to sanitation workers. In addition, NAMASTE will strive to bring behavioral changes to them.

Objective of the scheme

- To achieve zero fatalities in the sanitation sector
- No sanitation worker will touch or come in direct contact with the fecal matter
- The sanitation workers will be encouraged to form Self Help Groups
- Ensure the workers have access to alternative livelihoods as mechanization may bring loss of jobs to few in the industry
- In phase 1, 500 cities are taken. GoI is planning on choosing AMRUT cities first.
- Also, the first target will be cities whose population is more than one lakh.
- Ten cities from islands, hilly regions, and tourist destinations will be picked.



Indian Institute Of Millet Research (IIMR) In Hyderabad : Act As a Centre Of Excellence(Union Budget 2023):

During the presentation of the Union Budget 2023, Union Finance Minister announced that the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) in Hyderabad will act as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for 'Shree Anna' to take the research on millets to the international level and make India a global hub for millets.

India is the world's largest producer and second largest exporter of several types of 'Shree Anna' (millets) with a share of 41% in 2020, as per the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are leading producers.

As the year 2023 has been declared the 'International Year of Millet' by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The IIMR is considered the main driver behind the surge in the interest and consumption of millet-based products in the country in the last 5-6 years.



Khadi Fashion Show:

- A mega 'Khadi fashion show' was organised by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in Rann of Kutch/ Kachchh.
- This mega event was the first such event of KVIC to establish new dimensions of the Khadi brand all over the world.

- The government of Gujarat holds a three-month long festival known as 'The Rann Utsav' every year.
- The Rann of Kachchh is a salt marshy land in the Thar Desert in the Kachchh district of western Gujarat.
- It lies between Gujarat in India and the Sindh province in Pakistan.
- It is famous for its white salty desert sand and is reputed to be the largest salt desert in the world.
- The inhabitants of Kachchh are called Kachchhi and have a language of their own with the same name.
- Most of the population in Rann of Kachchh comprises of Hindus, Muslims, Jains and Sikhs.



2°C Warming By 2050:

A study published titled "contradicted projections from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)", states that the planet is likely to warm up by two degrees Celsius by 2050, even under a low-emission scenario.

The researchers used artificial intelligence called Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) to predict the time for reaching the 1.5 °C and 2°C thresholds.

The world has recorded a 1.1°C rise in temperature compared with the average in 1850-1900.

Key Findings:

There is a higher likelihood that 2°C will be reached under the low emission scenario compared with the IPCC AR6 (Sixth Assessment Report) synthesis assessment, and may fail to uphold the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement aims to limit the rise to below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

The IPCC estimated that the 1.5°C threshold could be attained as early as the 2030s under all emission scenarios.

Global warming is already on the verge of crossing the 1.5°C threshold, even if the climate forcing pathway is substantially reduced in the near term.

The threshold of 1.5°C will reach somewhere between 2033 and 2035 in the high, intermediate and low forcing scenarios.

The world could touch 2°C by 2050 under the high-emission scenario, 2049 and 2054 in the intermediate and low-emission scenarios, respectively.

In contrast, the IPCC estimated the likelihood of touching 2°C of global warming during the mid-21st century is high under a high-emission scenario.



Lab-Grown Diamonds : Customs Duty Reduced (Union Budget 2023)

- In a recent Budget speech Union finance Minister announced that the Customs duty on the seeds used in lab-grown diamond manufacturing will be reduced.
- Lab-grown diamonds are diamonds that are produced using specific technology which mimics the geological processes that grow natural diamonds.
- The diamond simulants such as Moissanite, Cubic Zirconia (CZ), White Sapphire, YAG, and others are used to make them look like natural diamonds.
- There are multiple ways in which LGDs can be produced.
- High pressure, high temperature” (HPHT) method
- It is the most common and cheapest method.
- In this method, extremely heavy presses that can produce up to 730,000 psi of pressure under extremely high temperatures of at least 1500 celsius are applied.
- Usually, graphite is used as the “diamond seed” and when subjected to these extreme conditions, the relatively inexpensive form of carbon turns into one of the most expensive carbon forms.
- Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) and explosive formation create what is known as detonation nanodiamonds.



Agriculture And Farmers Welfare Initiatives: Union Budget 2023

- During the Budget speech Union finance Minister announced multiple schemes towards Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- PM PRANAM (Prime Minister Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth)
- This programme will seek to incentivise states and union territories to promote alternative fertilisers and the balanced use of chemical fertilisers.
- Bhartiya Prakritik Kheti Bio-Input Resource Centres



Under this 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres will be set up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertiliser and pesticide manufacturing network.

This will impact over 1 crore farmers over the next three years.

Agriculture Accelerator Fund:

- The Fund will aim at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers.

- It will also bring in modern technologies to transform agricultural practices, and increase productivity and profitability.”
Cotton crop productivity enhancement
- Union government will adopt a cluster-based approach to enhance the cotton crop.
- To enhance the productivity of extra-long staple cotton, the government will adopt a cluster-based and value chain approach through Public Private Partnerships (PPP).
- Centre of excellence for millets
- Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be made into a Centre for Excellence and it will be supported for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.
- Agriculture credit to be increased
- The agriculture credit target will be increased to Rs 20 lakh crore with a focus on animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries.
- GOBARdhan scheme
- Five-hundred new ‘waste to wealth’ plants under GOBARdhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme will be established for promoting a circular economy.

Upper Bhadra Project: Union Budget 2023

Finance Minister recently announced a grant of ₹5300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Irrigation Project.

It is a major lift irrigation Scheme under implementation in the central region of Karnataka State.

Objectives:

To provide sustainable irrigation facility in khariff season.

It also proposes to recharge ground water tables and provide drinking water by filling 367 tanks with six tmcft water in drought-prone taluks.

It is planned to irrigate an extent of 2,25,515 hectares by micro irrigation in drought-prone districts of Chikkamagalur, Chitradurga, Tumkur and Davangere.

It envisages lifting upto 17.40 TMC of water in first stage from Tunga river to existing Bhadra reservoir and lifting 29.90 TMC of water in second stage from Bhadra reservoir to Tunnel near Ajjampura, in Tungabhadra sub-basin of Krishna basin.

In 2022, Central government gave national project status to “Upper Bhadra Project”.

Tungabhadra River:

- It is a sacred river in southern India that flows through the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telengana.
- The ancient name of the river was Pampa.
- It is formed by the confluence of two rivers, the Tunga River and the Bhadra
- Both Tunga & Bhadra Rivers are originated on the eastern slops of the Western Ghats.



National Data Governance Framework Policy:

The Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy aims to ensure that non-personal data and anonymized data from both Government and Private entities are safely accessible by Research and Innovation ecosystem.

The policy aims to provide an institutional framework for data/datasets/metadata rules, standards, guidelines and protocols for sharing of non-personal data sets while ensuring privacy, security and trust.

The IDMO shall coordinate closely with line Ministries, State Governments, and other schematic programs to standardize data management by building up capacity and capabilities in each Ministry. Further it will accelerate inclusion of non-personal datasets housed within ministries and private companies into the India Datasets program.

MeitY released the Draft National Data Governance Framework Policy on 26th May 2022 for public consultation. Currently the draft policy is under finalization.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.



Atma nirbhar Horticulture Clean Plant Programme:

- An Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program will be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.
- A clean plant means the plant has been tested for several things before planting.
- First, the plants are checked for pathogens.
- Second, actively growing ones are identified.
- Then tissue samples are collected from these actively growing plants.
- These tissues are fused with other plants to increase their productivity as well.

MISHTI Scheme launched in Union Budget 2023:

The main aim of the scheme is to take up mangrove plantations along the coastline. Meaning, mangrove saplings will be planted along the coastal regions of the country. Mangrove forests are spread across AP, WB, Odisha, Andaman and Nicobar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. As you can see Mangrove forests are present in all the coastal states of India.

The main objective of the MISHTI Scheme is to “preserve Mangrove forests”

Scheme implementation

- MISHTI is to be implemented by converging CAMPA Fund, MGNREGS, and other sources.
- CAMPA Fund means Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.



- The fund was established to increase the activities of afforestation in the country.
- MGNREGS is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It was launched under the MGNREGA Act of 2005.

Agriculture Accelerator Fund:

An Agriculture Accelerator Fund will be set up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, during the presentation of the Union budget 2023-24. The fund will aim at bringing innovative and affordable solutions for challenges faced by farmers. It will also bring in modern technologies to transform agricultural practices, and increase productivity and profitability.

Digital public infrastructure for agriculture will be built as an open-source, open-standard and interoperable platform for public good. This will enable inclusive, farmer-centric solutions through relevant information services for crop planning and health; improved access to farm inputs, credit, and insurance; help for crop estimation and market intelligence. It will support the growth of the agri-tech industry and start-ups operating in the space, according to the minister.

Shashi Kant Singh, Executive Director, Agri & Natural Resources, PwC India, said, the Union budget was incentivising a forward-looking vision for agriculture. “Focus on accelerator funds for agri-startups, higher agri-credit allocation, making India a global hub for millets, along with digital and functional rejuvenation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies would have a long-lasting impact on the sector,” Mr. Singh observed.

The Government’s commitment to setting up digital public infrastructure for agriculture would help the agritech startups to connect with more farmers and in turn enable them to realise better value for their produce, said Varun Khurana, Founder & CEO, Otipy, an e-commerce service allowing users to buy farm-fresh produce. “It is encouraging to see the government’s focus on agriculture, specifically setting up an agri accelerator fund for agri-startups. This will accelerate the pace of innovation in a sector which is India’s biggest, in the context of the employment generation,” said Mr. Khurana.

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman:

The Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman is announced during the Budget presentation.

It will enable the country’s artisans to improve the quality, scale, and reach of their products, integrating them with the Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSME) value chain.

It aims to unlock the potential of thousands of artists and craftspeople around the nation, through the provision of skills training, technology, and the opening of credit lines to them.

India, Uzbekistan to hold 4th Joint Military Exercise- ‘Dustlik’ from Monday in Uttarakhand:

As part of a military-to-military exchange program between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army, the fourth edition of biennial training Exercise DUSTLIK (2023) will be conducted from Monday till 5th March, 2023 in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

The Indian contingent will be represented by the 14th Battalion, The GARHWAL RIFLES, part of Western Command in this bilateral exercise.



- The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops of the North Western Military District of Uzbekistan Army.
- This joint exercise is aimed at enhancing military capability to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub Conventional scenario under United Nations Mandate.

Union minister lays foundation stone for world's largest and unique Divyang Park – Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Maharashtra:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari today laid the Foundation Stone of the Divyang Park – Anubhuti Inclusive Park in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- This is the world's first inclusive disabled park, a provision of about Rs 12 crore has been made by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for this park being built in an area of 90 thousand square feet.



The 49th Khajuraho Dance Festival began on February 20 in Khajuraho:

- Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel inaugurated 'Khajuraho Dance Festival-2023'. The festival will end on February 26.
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival began in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition.
- The festival is being organized by the Culture Department through Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal.
- The festival was hosted each year at the magnificent city of Khajuraho located in the district of Chhatarpur, the artists perform in the backdrop of historical monuments.

Union Government launches the 'mPassport Police App'

mPassport Police App: Steps to submit an online passport police verification

Step 1: Register on the online portal for Passport Seva

Step 2: Login to the Portal and click the "Apply for Police Clearance Certificate" link

Step 3: Submit after filling all the details in the form

Step 4: Now, click on "Pay and Schedule Appointment" on the "View Saved/Submitted Applications" screen to schedule an appointment and make your payment

Step 5: Once your payment is successful, click "Print

Application Receipt", or wait for an SMS of the receipt which you can show instead of a printout



Step 6: Visit the Passport Seva Kendra where your appointment is scheduled with all necessary documents along

BEL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) signed MoU to establish Joint Venture:

The Bharat Electronics Limited operating under the defense ministry recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will establish a joint venture at the Aero India Air Show.

This JV will provide support to the missile defense system of the country. The JV will mainly focus on MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile).

And also signed an MoU under which IAI will help BEL in producing the LORA (Long Range Artillery System) weapon system.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World's oldest toilet found in China:

(CNN) — Archeologists in China have found the remains of what may be the world's oldest known flush toilet.

Broken parts of the 2,400-year-old lavatory, as well as a bent flush pipe, were unearthed last summer by a research team among ancient palace ruins in the Yueyang archaeological site in the central city of Xi'an, according to Chinese state media.

Described by researchers as a "luxury object," the toilet was thought to have been located inside the palace, with a pipe leading to an outdoor pit, according to state-owned China Daily.

Liu Rui, a researcher at the Institute of Archeology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, who was part of the excavation team, told state media the toilet would have likely been reserved for high-ranking officials

during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC) and the later Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 220). He added that servants would likely have poured water into the toilet bowl every time it was used.

"The flush toilet is concrete proof of the importance the ancient Chinese attached to sanitation," Liu said, adding that there were very few records of indoor toilets in ancient times.



Fossils of brain surgery performed 3000 years ago have been discovered in Israel:

- Archeologists found evidence of brain surgery in the skeleton of a person discovered buried beneath the floor of a Bronze-era building.
- The brothers lived between 1550 BC and 1450 BC and their remains were found during an excavation of a tomb in the ancient city of Tel Megiddo.
- The surgery was done by trephination method, a surgical procedure of creating a hole in the skull without affecting underlying tissue.



New ancient 'marine crocodile' discovered on UK's Jurassic Coast:

- The fossil of a 185 million-year-old ancestor of crocodiles has been discovered on Britain's Jurassic Coast.
- Parts of the head, backbone, and limbs of a new thalattosuchian were found in Charmouth, Dorset.
- The find, dating back to the early Jurassic period, is the only one complete enough to be named Turnersuchus hingleyae.
- Thalattosuchians are described as an ancient 'sister' of modern-day crocodiles' ancestors and are known as 'marine crocodiles' or 'sea crocodiles', despite the fact they are not members of Crocodylia, but are more distantly related.
- It lived in the Jurassic Ocean and preyed along the coastline on marine wildlife. Due to its relatively long, slender snout it would have looked similar to modern gharial crocodiles found in major river systems of the northern Indian subcontinent.
- Some thalattosuchians became very well adapted to life in the oceans, with short limbs modified into flippers, a shark-like tail fin, salt glands, and may have had the ability to have a live birth rather than lay eggs.
- In the Turnersuchus found in Charmouth Mudstone Formation, many of these later features are yet to evolve.



FATF suspends Russia and grey-lists Africa's largest economies:

The Financial Action Task Force has suspended Russia's membership, and "grey-listed" Africa's two largest economies, Nigeria and South Africa, it announced on February 24.

This is the first time that the international anti-money laundering organisation has suspended any member since it was established in 1989.

The FATF's members voted for the move at its plenary session, which came on the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The task force said the invasion violates "the FATF.



Kazakhstan on 79th rank among 121 nations in Global Soft Power Index: Report

Astana [Kazakhstan], March 3 (ANI): Kazakhstan climbed from 88th to 79th position out of 121 countries in the 2023 Global Soft Power Index by Brand Finance, the world's top independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy, The Astana Times reported.

"This annual report on Soft Power focuses on the ability to influence others through appeal or persuasion rather than coercion. It includes a wide variety of instruments, including business and commerce, government, foreign relations, culture and history, media and communication, education and science, the nation's character, and promoting its values," said Brand Finance Chairman and CEO David Haigh.

According to Astana Times, in an interview with Brand Finance, Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Vassilenko said that the country's reputation has been strengthened by ongoing reforms to build a Just and Fair Kazakhstan, commitment to the resolution of global issues, and the success of Kazakh athletes, artists, and talented youth.

"Being a nation at the core of Eurasia between East and West, we feel it is our duty to foster cooperation between all parties. We seek to strengthen our status as a vital facilitator of global trade, partnerships, and peacekeeping," Vassilenko added.

The Global Soft Power Index is the world's most extensive research study on impressions of nation brands, polling over 100,000 respondents from 121 countries, reported The Astana Times. (ANI)



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Mexico has been signed:

India and Mexico have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on research, technology and innovation collaborations with focus on several key technology areas like Aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation & Strategic Sectors; Civil, Infrastructure & Engineering; Ecology, Environment Earth & Ocean Sciences and Water; Mining, Minerals, Metals & Materials; Chemicals (including leather) and Petrochemicals; Energy (Conventional & Non-Conventional) and Energy Devices; Agri, Nutrition & Biotech and Healthcare.



The multi-sectoral agreement was signed in the presence of Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh and Foreign Minister of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard at the India Science Centre, New Delhi in presence of high-level delegations from both the sides.

Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Mexican Agencies through this MoU could contribute effectively to the global society through research and innovation partnerships for technology development, upscaling of each other's Intellectual Property for commercialisation and research infrastructure development & sharing. He said, in addition to regular research & development, capacity building & training and participation in knowledge dissemination activities, a special focus on technology and industry collaboration has been structured in the MoU.

Best drivers and worst drivers in the world list was Published:

Insurance company called 'Compare the Market' has published a list of countries with the best and worst drivers in the world, looking at drivers from 50 countries internationally.

According to the list of countries with the best drivers	List of countries with worst drivers
Japan in first place	Thailand ranks first
Netherlands at 2nd place,	Peru at 2nd place
Norway is in 3rd place	Lebanon ranked 3rd
Estonia is in 4 th place	India is ranked 4th place

26th Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination meeting held in Beijing

On February 22nd, 2023, H.E. Mr. Hong Liang, Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs China and Dr. Shilpak Ambule, Joint Secretary of the East Asia Division and External Affairs Minister's Office of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the 26th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on China-India Border Affairs in Beijing. Representatives of government agencies for foreign affairs, national defense and immigration affairs of the two countries attended the meeting.

The two sides reviewed the positive progress of the previous management and control along the China-India border areas, affirmed the achievements made in the disengagement of border troops of the two countries at four locations, including the Galwan Valley, and exchanged in-depth views on the next-phase consultation. The two sides reached consensus as follows:

First, the two sides agreed to actively implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and promote the further stabilization of the border situation.

Second, the two sides agreed to consolidate the outcomes of negotiation, strictly observe the agreements and protocols signed and relevant consensus reached by the two sides, avoid recurrence of the situation on the ground, and work jointly to safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Third, the two sides agreed to work in the same direction on the basis of previous consensus, speed up to deal with the relevant issues on the western section of the China-India boundary, so as to reach a mutually acceptable solution at an early date. The two sides discussed other measures to further ease the border situation, and agreed to make efforts in promoting border situation to the phase of normalized management and control.

Fourth, the two sides agreed to maintain close communication through diplomatic and military channels, and hold the 18th round of Corps Commanders Level Meeting at an early date.



APEDA, Ministry of Commerce signed MoU with Lulu Group in Dubai:

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lulu Hypermarket LLC for the promotion of millets in GCC countries in Dubai On February 21, 2023.

From this agreement APEDA is collaborating with Lulu Group, an international retail hypermarket chain with locations in several countries, to promote Indian nutritional millets and value added products in West Asia.



Seattle created history becomes first city in US to ban caste discrimination:

The Seattle City Council passed an ordinance adding caste to the list of protected classes in the city's municipal code, along with groups like race, religion, and gender identity. Seattle created history by becoming the first US city to pass an explicit ban on caste-based discrimination.

Seattle bans caste discrimination:

Caste-oppressed people in the city are permitted to file complaints of discrimination under the law, which forbids caste discrimination in employment, housing, public facilities, and other settings.

Caste prejudice and discrimination could spread more widely in the US as a result of South Asians being one of the immigrant groups with the fastest rate of growth in the country.

But because caste oppressed individuals are a minority inside a minority in the United States, people who aren't from South Asia might not be aware of the nuanced dynamics at work.

The matter is already moving through the courts: A former employee of Cisco Systems is scheduled to present evidence that he was subjected to caste-based discrimination.

In Seattle, one of the nation's leading tech hubs and the location of significant businesses with sizable South Asian immigrant workforces, caste is particularly important. Many witnesses discussed how caste has appeared in local businesses and other settings during public comment hearings and letters to the city council the week before the vote.

The measure was overwhelmingly supported by the large number of speakers who registered during the public comment period, regardless of race, religion, or caste.

Workers from the dominant and disadvantaged castes, union members, political activists for progressive change, Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims were among the supporters.

Casteism Impact:

Casteism is a sneaky sort of prejudice that frequently exists in South Asian communities. People are divided into rigid divisions by the caste system, which is a social hierarchy, from birth, with those at the bottom of the ladder — many of whom self-identify as Dalits — on the lowest rung.

Those on the lowest rungs of the social hierarchy—many of whom self-identify as Dalits—are subject to slurs, discrimination, and even violence because of their caste identities.

The caste system is a rigid social hierarchy that divides people into categories at birth. Although the caste system has its roots in Hinduism and was first formed in ancient India, under centuries of Muslim and British domination, it evolved into its modern form and is now present in almost all South Asian nations and religious communities.

Caste discrimination was officially outlawed in India's new constitution, which was written by a Dalit legal expert, when the country gained independence, but it is still a significant issue today.

Hindus of North America:

The Coalition of Hindus of North America, the Hindu American Foundation, and the Vishva Hindu Parishad of America, among other organisations, opposed the ordinance despite its widespread support, claiming that it unfairly singled out Hindus and contributed to negative stereotypes about them.

The Coalition of Hindus of North America, the Hindu American Foundation, and the Vishva Hindu Parishad of America, among other organisations, opposed the ordinance despite the fact that it was generally supported.

They claimed that the legislation unfairly singled out Hindus and contributed to damaging misconceptions about them.

Gross Domestic Climate Risk released by Cross Dependency Initiative:

According to a ranking released by Cross Dependency Initiative, which specializes in climate risk analytics for companies, banks and regions created a high-emission scenario based on the data provided by the IPCC.

According to the report published in the top 50 provinces facing climate risks 26 provinces in China, 9 in India, and 5 in the US are the highly risky zones.

9 Regions in India

1. Mumbai
2. Punjab
3. Uttar Pradesh

4. Maharashtra
9. Assam
5. Rajasthan
6. Tamil Nadu
7. Gujarat
8. Kerala

The first vice-ministerial meeting of the I2U2 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE :

The first vice-ministerial meeting of the I2U2 in Abu Dhabi, UAE held from 20th -26th February 2023.

The main objective of the initiative is security cooperation, technological hubs, food security, and other different energy fields.

I2U2 is a joint initiative of India, Israel, the USA, and the UAE.

I2 stands for Israel and India.

U2 stands for USA and UAE.



International Intellectual Property Index 2023:

International IP Index:

The Index evaluates the IP framework in each economy across 50 unique indicators which industry believes represent economies with the most effective IP systems.

The indicators create a snapshot of an economy overall IP ecosystem and span nine categories of protection: Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Design Rights, Trade Secrets, Commercialization of IP Assets, Enforcement, Systemic Efficiency, Membership and Ratification of International Treaties.

Intellectual Property:

Intellectual Property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, and images used in commerce.

It is a form of legal protection in the form of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) given to individuals or companies for their creative and innovative works.

These rights are outlined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These legal protections allow the creators to control use of their work and prevent others from using or reproducing them without permission.



Types:

The main types of IP include patents for inventions, trademarks for branding, copyrights for artistic and literary works, trade secrets for confidential business information, and industrial designs for product appearance.

India and IPR:

India is a member of the World Trade Organisation and committed to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).

India is also a member of World Intellectual Property Organization, a body responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual property rights throughout the world.

The National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016 was adopted in May 2016 as a vision document to guide future development of IPRs in the country.

Its clarion call is “Creative India; Innovative India”.

Lost Caesium-137 Found In Western Australia:

- A Caesium-137 capsule lost in transit was discovered in Western Australia using specialised detection equipment that detected radiation.
- Caesium is a soft, flexible, silvery-white metal.
- It becomes liquid near room temperature, but easily bonds with chlorides to create a crystalline powder.
- Caesium-137 is the most common radioactive form of caesium.
- It is produced by nuclear fission which is also one of the byproducts of nuclear fission processes in nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons testing.
- This radioactive metal has a half-life of 30.05 years – meaning in three decades it will have half of its original activity.
- Caesium-137 can cause serious illness when touched, leading to burns and acute radiation sickness.
- External exposure can increase the risk of cancer because of the presence of high-energy beta-gamma radiation. Prolonged exposure can even cause death.
- Internal exposure to it through ingestion or inhalation allows the radioactive material to be distributed in the soft tissues, especially muscle tissue, which increases cancer risk.



India has been elected chair of 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development

India has been elected chair of the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD), Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj accepted the chairpersonship at the UN Headquarters in New York.

It chose Thomas Lammar of Luxembourg, Jon Ivanovski of North Macedonia, and Carla Mara Carlson of the Dominican Republic to serve as the 62nd sessions vice chairs.



18th edition of World Security Congress:

- International Union of Railways (UIC) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) are coming together to organize the 18th World Security Congress in Jaipur from 21st to 23rd February 2023.
- Mr. Sanjay Chander, Director General, Railway Safety, will hold the post of Chairman of the International Railway Association Safety Platform from July 2022 to July 2024.
- The 18th edition of the Congress, centered on the theme of “Railway Security Strategy: Responses and Vision for Future”.
- Previously, in 2006 and 2015, RPF India had successfully organized and hosted the International UIC World Security Congress in New Delhi.



16th edition of the International Industrial Trade fair held in Nepal

The 16th edition of the International Industrial Trade Fair and Cottage Industry Festival of Nepal is seeing thousands of footfalls on a daily basis at Bhrikutimandap in Kathmandu. The five-day fair has been organised by the Federation of Nepali Cottage and Small-Scale Industries in association with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal on 14th of this month. It will conclude tomorrow. The main aim of the exhibition is to promote local industries and the consumption of domestic products.

Nepal has huge potential of promoting Himalayan agricultural produce to international market, which was exhibited in the festival. A report from our Special correspondent.

As many as 183 cottage industries from Nepal and other SAARC countries are exhibiting their products at the five-day fair. Stalls held by Bangladeshi traders showcasing Dhaka Jamdani Sarees had many buyers. Local handloom weaving and rug manufacturing was demonstrated for public awareness about the labour-intensive handloom work. Handbags, backpacks, caps, purses and other hemp-based items were popular at the fair. According to the President of Hemp Association of Nepal, people recognise Hemp more for its medicinal value than the bast fibre. Nepal with good hemp production from its forest can be a good supplier of raw hemp fibre to the international market.

The Festival exhibited handicrafts, medicinal herbs, and indigenous tools and utensils made by the Raute community. Craftsmen making art pieces from wheat straw for the last three decades have attracted a large number of buyers. Woodcraft, sweet oranges, local lemons, king oyster mushrooms and Nepali Dhaka clothes were all attracting domestic consumers.

Science and Technology

China launches Zhongxing-26 satellite in space:

China recently launched the Zhongxing-26 satellite by China Academy of Space Technology at a cost of 333 million USD. It was launched on a Long March 3B rocket.

The main objective of the satellite is to provide broadband connectivity for aviation and ship-related operations.



Russia launches Soyuz MS23 Spacecraft in Space:

Three astronauts were stranded in space as the Soyuz MS-22 capsule started leaking coolant, so Roscosmos launched an empty SOYUZ spacecraft to bring back the stranded astronauts in space.

The Soyuz MS23 capsule was launched in automatic mode and it will bring back the astronomers safely.



ECONOMICS

Economic Survey 2022-23:

- The Union Finance Minister tabled the Economic Survey for the Financial Year 2022-23, after the President's address.
- The Economic Survey 2022-23 highlighted that India's economic recovery from the pandemic is complete and the economy is expected to grow in the range of 6% to 6.8% in the coming financial year 2023-24.

Economic Survey:

- The Economic Survey of India is an annual document released by the Ministry of Finance. It is usually presented in Parliament a day before the Union Budget.

- It is prepared by the Economics Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Advisor.
- It reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months and presents the economic outlook for the current fiscal year.
- It also presents the current state of the Indian economy, including data on gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, employment, and trade.
- The first Economic Survey in India was presented in the year 1950-51.
- Up to 1964, it was presented along with the Union Budget. From 1964 onwards, it has been delinked from the Budget.



Performance:

- India hosted the world's second-largest vaccination drive, involving over 2 billion doses.
- The improvement in the financial health of public sector banks has enabled them to increase credit supply, leading to rapid credit growth for the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

Current Challenges:

- Indian economy still faces persistent challenges, including the depreciating rupee and the possibility of further US Fed interest rate hikes.
- The current account deficit (CAD) may also continue to widen as global commodity prices remain elevated.

Outlook 2023-24:

- India's economic growth in FY23 is being led by private consumption and capital formation, generating employment.
- The recovery of MSMEs is progressing, with the Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) easing their debt concerns.
- Global growth is projected to decline in 2023, but India's growth is expected to be swift in FY24 with a vigorous credit disbursement and capital investment cycle.
- The expansion of public digital platforms and measures such as PM Gati Shakti, the National Logistics Policy, and the Production-Linked Incentive schemes will support economic growth and boost manufacturing output.

NSE World's Largest Derivatives Exchange For 4th Straight Year:

The National Stock Exchange of India has again emerged as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022, in terms of the number of contracts traded, according to the Futures Industry Association. This is the fourth consecutive year when the exchange earned the top spot, the NSE said in a statement on Sunday.

In addition, the exchange was ranked third in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022, an advancement from the previous year when it was in the fourth position, as per statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges. The calendar year witnessed the benchmark equity index – the Nifty 50 touching lifetime high of 18,887.60. Further, significant strengthening in liquidity was seen in several product categories, including equity, equity derivatives and currency derivatives.



In the equity segment, exchange-traded funds daily-average turnover stood at Rs 470 crore in CY 2022, an increase of 51% year-on-year.

- Sovereign Gold Bond's daily average turnover in the secondary market was Rs 7 crore in CY 2022, a jump of 59% YoY.
- Government securities, which have been made available in the equity segment of NSE, are also seeing significant growth, although on a lower base, with volumes touching a daily average turnover of Rs 3 crore last month.
- "The achievement of being ranked 3rd in equity segment and largest exchange in derivatives is a culmination of the collaborative effort of all the stakeholders, Sriram Krishnan, Head of Business Development, NSE noted.
- NSE said it is expected to soon begin the Social Stock Exchange as a segment subject to regulatory approvals.
- This would enable "Social Enterprises", particularly non-profit organisations to showcase their work to a wider audience and mobilise funds through the issuance of instruments, such as Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bonds and bring efficiency and transparency to the overall ecosystem.
- On the derivatives side, NSE said it is working on new products in currency, an interest rate segment and the commodity derivatives segment, and will soon announce the launch. This is subject to regulatory approvals.

NIA launched 'Pay As You Drive' vehicle insurance policy:

- The New India Assurance has launched a "Pay As You Drive" (PAYD) policy for vehicles.
- It is a comprehensive motor insurance policy that charges premiums based on the usage of the vehicle.
- The policy has two components – third-party cover and own-damage cover.

- This policy offered features like discounts on renewals, coverage beyond the distance limit, and enhanced protections.
- The discount will be applied to the basic own damage premium.
- Chairman of NIA – Neerja Kapur
- Recent Facilities Launched in Banks & Insurance Sector
- AU Small Finance Bank has launched the SwipeUp platform.
- LIC India launched Jeevan Azad (Plan No. 868) limited premium payment plan
- SBI launched e-Bank Guarantee facility in association with NeSL
- Bajaj Allianz launched Respect Senior Care Rider
- ICICI Bank launched digital solutions for exporters
- Indian Bank launched its flagship programme ‘MSME Prerana ‘in Rajasthan

APPOINTMENTS

New director of NALCO was appointed:

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Mines for appointment of Pankaj Kumar Sharma as Director (Production) in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Mines.
- According to an order issued from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT), Sharma has been appointed to the post



- for a period of five years with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post on or after February 1, 2023, or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earlier. Presently, Sharma is currently working as Chief General Manager at NMDC Limited, a PSU under the Ministry of Steel.
- Sharma was recommended for the post of Director (Production) of NALCO by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on September 13, 2022.

Air Marshal AP Singh To Be New Vice Chief Of Indian Air Force:

- Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- He will succeed Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, who will retire from service.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command. He will take charge as the Vice Chief on Wednesday, the officials said.
- He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College.
- He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot with more than 4,900 hours of service flying on a variety of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.



Indian-origin Ajay Banka becomes World Bank President Indian-origin Ajay Banka to head World Bank : Jobaidan announcement:

- New York: Former CEO of MasterCard US President Joe Biden has announced Ajay Palsingh Banka as the next president of the World Bank.
- David Malpass, who took office as the President of the World Bank Group in 2019. 66, the tenure will end in 2024. In an announcement issued a few days ago, he said that he is going to step down early from the post of World Bank President.



CAG Girish Chandra Murmu selected as External Auditor of ILO in Geneva

- Girish Chandra Murmu will take over from the current External Auditor of the ILO, the Supreme Audit Institution of the Philippines.
- His appointment enhances its high standards, global audit experience and strong national credibility with the international community.

- The ILO had constituted a selection panel and invited bids from the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) for the appointment of external auditors.
- In this, on the basis of superior technical experience and other criteria, the ILO has selected the three Supreme Audit Institutions (India, Canada and the United Kingdom).
- The selection panel will use the CAG's perspective in developing a strategic partnership with the ILO.
- Its main objective is to assist the ILO in meeting its strategic goals while maintaining the independence and oversight important in performing the external auditor's functions.
- ILO is an agency of the United Nations, which brings together the governments, employers and workers of 187 member countries,
- It sets labor standards, formulates policies and programs that promote decent work for all women and men.



Present role of CAG - It is currently the External Auditor of-

- World Health Organization (2020-2023),
- Food and Agriculture Organization (2020-2025),
- International Atomic Energy Agency (2022-2027),
- Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (2021-2023)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (2020-2022).
- CAG is Member of the Governing Boards of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and ASOSAI.
- CAG is a member of the United Nations (UN) Panel of External Auditors.

Lakshmi Narayanan appointed as Additional Judge of Chennai High Court:

President Drarubathi Murmu has ordered the appointment of Advocate Venkatachari Lakshmi Narayanan as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court as per the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium held on 17th February 2023.

And he will soon be administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of Madras High Court D. Raja. With this, the number of judges of Chennai High Court has increased to 58 and the number of vacancies has decreased to 18.



New Director General Quality Assurance was appointed:

Lt Gen RS Reen was appointed as Director General Quality Assurance on February 24, 2023; He was working as a senior faculty at Defense Institute of Quality Assurance, Bengaluru.

He is a 1986-batch officer; Lt Gen Reen is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy.

The DGQA is an Inter-Service Organization functioning under the Department of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defense.



Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi appointed as the new Drug Controller General of India:

The DCGI, or Drug Controller General of India, is responsible for ensuring the supply of quality drugs throughout the country and holds the authority to approve new drugs as well as regulate clinical trials. Dr. Raghuvanshi, the new DCGI, has a strong background in the field with over 250 published patents and 25 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, former Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission secretary-cum-scientific director has been appointed as the new Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

Raghuvanshi will supersede Dr PBN Prasad who is holding the said position till February 28. The order which was released on Wednesday stated that Raghuvanshi will continue to be the DCGI till February 28, 2025.

Recently, The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended to the government his name as the successor to Dr V G Somani, whose extended tenure will end mid-February, officials said. The recommendation was later approved by the Health Ministry, followed by approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“The UPSC on the basis of assessment of bio-data of the eligible officers received...and after holding personal talks with them on January 27 recommend Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi for appointment to the post of Drug Controller (India) by short term contract basis,” according to the UPSC communication to the Health Ministry.

The DCGI heads the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) which is responsible for ensuring quality drugs supply across the country. It also has authority to give approval to new drugs and regulating clinical trials.



Ankaj kumar has been appointed as a new becomes director (Production) of ONGC:

The Central Government has appointed ONGC's (Oil & Natural Gas Corporation) Director (Offshore) Pankaj Kumar has become the first-ever Director (Production) of the company.

He also has more than 35 years of experience in the business operations of ONGC, he held this post from the date of his assumption of office till his retirement.



Delhi's first woman mayor has been elected:

Aam Aadmi Party's Shelly Oberoi won the Delhi Mayor elections.

She defeated Rekha Gupta, nominated candidate of BJP.

Shelly Oberoi received 150 vote while Rekha Gupta got 116 seats.

Shelly Oberoi became the city's first woman mayor in 10 years.

The AAP had bagged 134 seats and BJP got 104 seats while Congress bagged nine seats in the MCD polls.

The 39-year-old has studied management from IIM, Kozhikode.

Shelly Oberoi has been associated with AAP since 2014 and named the vice president of party's Mahila Morcha in 2020.



A new Foreign coach for the Indian boxing team has been appointed:

The Indian boxing got a big boost with the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Tuesday appointing the well renowned Dmitry Dmitruk as the foreign coach to spearhead the country's elite teams for the next two years.

Dmitruk, who served as the high performance coach of the Irish Athletic Boxing Association as well as the Irish National Junior and Youth Teams for the last 12 years, will be leading Indian boxing's men's and women's teams for the upcoming elite competitions, including the World Championships.

"India has emerged as a boxing powerhouse in recent times and I am extremely delighted to get the opportunity of coaching this talented group of pugilists.

"With the experience I have garnered in my career, I am confident that we will continue to achieve similar glory in prestigious tournaments together," Dmitruk was quoted as saying in a media release.



The 47-year-old has played a key role in elevating Ireland's performances and nurturing young talent over the course of his 12-year stint in the country. He has coached notable boxers such as Joe Ward to multiple World Championships silver medals in 2015 and 2017 and Grainne Walsh to a bronze at the 2019 European Games.

As part of the Irish boxing team's coaching staff, he contributed significantly to the qualification of the country's boxers for the 2016 Rio Olympics. Speaking on the appointment, BFI President Ajay Singh said: "Dmitruk has proven coaching credentials while working with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association.

"We have full faith in his abilities to mentor the talented boxers of our country. His appointment will certainly bolster our ambition to maximise India's medal prospects at the Paris Olympics 2024.'

New Secretary of the Central Bank of India was appointed:

Chandrakant Bhagwat was appointed as a Company Secretary State-owned Central Bank of India.

Previously he was working in the Bank of Maharashtra, and also he had an experience of more than 10 years in the Legal and Secretarial area.

Indian Telephone Industries Limited CMD was appointed:

Rajesh Roy has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ITI Limited, a PSU under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Now he is working as General Manager in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), and also he is appointed for a period of five years with effect from the date of his assumption of charge.



Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam joined as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog on 25.02.2023.

An Indian Administrative Service Officer of 1987 batch (Chhattisgarh cadre), Shri Subrahmanyam has held important assignments over the last three decades in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir, along with a stint at The World Bank. He has been Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, Principal Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, and has held positions in the Prime Minister's Office.



AWARDS

Winners of the Republic Day parade 2023:

The Delhi Republic Day parade is the largest and most important of the parades marking the Republic Day celebrations in India, The parade takes place every year on 26 January at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

In that parade Uttarakhand has been selected as the best state tableau among 17 States, and Maharashtra tableau won the second place and Uttar Pradesh won the third place.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award – 2022:

The seven-member jury led by former ICICI Bank chairman selected Sajjan Jindal, the chairman and managing director of JSW Group, was awarded as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2022.

Other Award winners are



Category Name	Winners Name
Start-up	Mahesh Pratapneni, Co-Founder and Group CEO, MedGenome
Financial Services:	V. Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO, IDFC First Bank Ltd
Energy, Real Estate & Infrastructure	Irfan Razack, Chairman and MD, Prestige Group
Manufacturing	Pradeep Kheruka, Executive Chairman, Borosil Group
Services	Pawan Jain, Chairman and Rubal Jain, MD, Safexpress Pvt Ltd
Consumer Products & Retail	Ravi Modi, Chairman and MD, Vedant Fashions Ltd (Manyavar)
Life Sciences & Healthcare	Samina Hamied, Executive Vice Chairperson, Cipla Ltd
Business Transformation	Vivek Kumar Jain, Chairman and MD, Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd

Best adventure tourism destination award

- In order to recognize the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department in recognition of its efforts in promoting 'Gulmarg' the India Today Tourism Survey has chosen Jammu & Kashmir Tourism for the best adventure tourism award.
- The awards were given away at New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal.



13th India Digital Awards (IDA):

The jury of the prestigious India Digital Awards (IDA) instituted under the India Digital Summit (IDS) held the 13th edition of the India Digital Awards ceremony on February 21, 2023,

The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) named Nitin Kamat, founder and CEO of Zerodha, as its Digital Person of the Year, while e-grocery startup Zepto bagged the Digital Start-up of the Year award.



Marconi Prize 2023 :

The Marconi Prize is one of the top honors for computer scientists and is awarded by the U.S.-based Marconi Foundation. It is given to those “who have made a significant contribution to increasing digital inclusivity through advanced information and communications technology.

Computer scientist Hari Balakrishnan has been awarded the Marconi Prize 2023. Dr. Balakrishnan has been cited “for fundamental contributions to wired and wireless networking, mobile sensing, and distributed systems”



13th edition of the Sansad Ratna Award for the year 2023:

Prime Point Foundation and the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee have jointly organized the Sansad Ratna Awards for the past 13 years.

According to the jury's decision, 13 MPs, two Parliamentary Committees and one Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Awardee have been selected for the award in the year 2023.

Sansad Ratna Awards winners 2023		
Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Two Parliamentary Committees
Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato (BJP, Jharkhand)	Dr. John Brittas (CPI-M, Kerala),	The Finance Committee (Lok Sabha Committee – Chairman – Shri Jayant Sinha, BJP, Jharkhand)
Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (BJP, West Bengal)	Dr. Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD, Bihar),	Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee (Rajya Sabha Committee – Chairman – Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, YSR Congress, Andhra Pradesh)
Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma (INC, Andaman Nicobar Islands)	Smt. Fauzia Tahseen Ahmed Khan (NCP, Maharashtra)	-
Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavit (BJP, Maharashtra)	Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad (Samajwadi Party, UP)	-
Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC, West Bengal)	Smt. Chhaya Verma (INC, Chhattisgarh)	-
Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty (BJP, Maharashtra)	-	-
Shri Sudhir Gupta (BJP, Madhya Pradesh)	-	-
Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe (NCP, Maharashtra)	-	-

"Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award 2023"	
The award is to honor veteran leaders for their contribution to Indian politics, the society and the people	Shri T K Rangarajan, (Former Rajya Sabha MP for two terms and a Senior CPIM Leader)

SPORTS NEWS

International Tennis Rankings:

- The International Tennis Federation has released a new ranking list of players.
- In Men's Singles,
- Novak Djokovic (Serbia) is in 1st place with 7,070 points.
- Spain's Carlos Alcaraz is in 2nd place with 6,730 points.
- Greece's Tsitsipas is in 3rd place.

Women's ranking list

- Poland's Iga Swiatek is ranked first.
- Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus is ranked 2nd.
- Ons Jabeen of Tunisia is ranked 3rd.



85th edition of Tata Steel Chess tournament:

- The Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2023 is the 85th edition of the annual chess tournament held in Wijk aan Zee, Netherland. It was held from 13 January to 29 January 2023.
- In that tournament Anish Giri, has won the 85th edition of Tata Steel Chess by defeating Richard Rapport.



Australia defeated India in Women's T20 World cup semi final:

The International Cricket Council is conducting the T20 Women's World Cup in South Africa. India entered the semi-finals after beating Ireland. The semi-finals match was held between India and Australia. In that Match Australia won the Indian team by 5 wickets. The Women's T20 World cup was first organized in England in 2009.



Noisiel Open Chess Tournament:

The Noisiel Open Chess Tournament Chess Tournament was held in Paris, France from 18th to 23rd February 2023. Nearly 52 international players from 11 countries participated in this tournament.

In this tournament Erode Grandmaster Iniyen won the title, Indian international master NR Vignesh secures 2nd place and Norwegian Alexander Stromberg secures 3rd place.



Qatar Open International ATP Tennis tournament:

The Qatar Open International Tennis Tournament was held at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha, Qatar from February 20 to 25, 2023.

India's Rogan Bopanna, Australia's Matthew Epton pair won the Champions Trophy by defeating Constant Lestine (France)-Boutique van de Jantskalp (Netherlands) in the men's doubles final of the tournament.

This was the First ATP win between Bopanna and Epton. They got Rs.60 lakh as a prize. And it was Bopanna's 23rd doubles title overall.



8th Women's T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament:

The 8th Women's T20 Cricket World Cup is being held in South Africa with 10 teams participating.

The final match of the tournament will be held in South Africa between Australia and South Africa on 26/02/2023.

All-India Taekwondo Championship 2023 held in New Delhi:

The Korean Cultural Centre India and the Sports Authority of India are co-hosting the All India Taekwondo Championship with Korean National Sport University in celebration of 50 years of Korea and India diplomatic relations. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur will be the chief guest for the event and the President of Korea National Sports University Yong-gyu Ahn will be the Guest of Honour.

This time, the All-India Taekwondo Championships between the two countries will be held for three days from February 24-26 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Wrestling Hall, Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi. The event is scheduled to start from 10.30 am tomorrow.

This Taekwondo championship has been planned to commemorate 50 years of diplomatic ties between Korea and India and to revitalize Taekwondo that has been stagnant since the pandemic. It also aims to lay the foundation for the future as a major sports event between the two countries.

The ceremony will consist of MOU signing in the field of sports exchange between the two countries and special performances, Korean dance (traditional, modern, practical), Taekwondo demonstration, and K-pop cover dance by performance teams from Korea National Sport University.



Alyssa Healy appointed as a captain of Uttar Pradesh Warriors in Women's IPL

Uttar Pradesh team UP in women's IPL cricket series Australia's Alyssa Healy has been appointed as the captain of the Warriors team. Alyssa Healy, wicket keeper and action batsman of the Australian team, is from UP. The team management said that he will add strength to the Warriors. Capri Global Holdings Private Limited is the owner of this team. Alyssa Healy is a well-known player in international T20 cricket. He has played 139 T20Is for Australia and has scored 2,500 runs with one century and 14 fifties. He is also known as the best wicket keeper and has also made 110 dismissals.



Alyssa Healy said about being appointed captain, 'U.P. I consider it a great responsibility and honor to be appointed as the captain of the Warriors team. It will be a historic event as it will be the first women's IPL series. Looking forward to this series. UP The Warriors have some great players. We are ready to show our action.

There are experienced players and young players in the team. We also have a lot of fan support.' Said that. The women's IPL series will start on March 4 and will run until March 26. UP Warriors Squad: Alyssa Healy (Captain), Sophie Ecclestone, Deepti Sharma, Tahlia McGrath, Shabnim Ismail, Anjali Sarwani, Rajeshwari Gaekwad, Parshavi Chopra, Shweta Sehrawad, S Yashshree, Devi La Hariscree, Kiran Nowskre, Kiran Nowskre Yadav and Simran Sheikh. .

ISSF Shooting World Cup 2023:

The 2023 Shooting World Cup is being held in Cairo, Egypt. So far, India has won 3 gold medals and 2 bronze medals and is in first position in the competition.

In that tournament, India's Rudranksh Patil defeated Germany's Maximilian Ulbricht to win the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event.

India's Thilothama Sen won the bronze medal in the 10m women's air rifle event.



Para Sports - Event Calendar 2023:

Para Athletics

- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Tunis 2023 Grand Prix - 17th Tunis, Tunisia - 6th to 8th February 2023
- National Para Athletics Championships 2022-23, Pune, Maharashtra - February 2023.
- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Dubai 2023 Grand Prix - 14th Fazza, Dubai, U.A.E - 26th February to 1st March 2023
- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Marrakech 2023 Grand Prix - 7th, Marrakech, Morocco - 9th to 11th March 2023

- 21st National Para Athletics Championships- 2022_Circular, Delhi/Gujarat - 2nd to 5th March 2022
- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Monterrey 2023 Grand Prix – Abierto Mexicano de Para Atletismo, Mexico 27th to 29th April 2023
- India 2023 International Para Athletics Grand Prix from 5.05.2023 to 7.05.2023 at Sree Kaneerava Stadium Bangalore, India from 2nd to 8th May 2022.
- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Italy 2023 Grand Prix, Italy 11th to 13th May 2023
- World Para Athletics Grand Prix-2023, Nottwil 2023 Grand Prix – Para Athletics 2023, Notwill, Switzerland - 25th to 27th May 2023
- World Para Athletics Championship 2023 at Charlety Stadium in Paris, France, from 8 to 17 July 2023.
- 5th Indian Open National Para Athletics Championships-2023, Bangalore, India - 22nd & 23rd July 2023
- Asian Para Games, 2022, Hangzhou, China - 22nd to 28th October 2023



Para Swimming

- Citi Para Swimming World Series Australia - 17-19 February
- Manchester 2023 Para Swimming World Championship - 31st July to 6th August 2023
- Asian Para Games-2022, Hangzhou, China - 22nd to 28th October 2023
- National Para Swimming Championships 2022-23 held at Guwahati (Assam) - November 2023

Para Powerlifting

- National Para Powerlifting Championships 2022-23 Lucknow, UP - February 2023.
- Youth Parapan American Games, 9-11 June
- International Para Powerlifting Championships, Delhi, July 2023
- Jr. World Championship - 22 August 2023
- Sr. World Championship - 20-23 August 2023
- African Para Games, September 2023
- Asian Para Games, 22-28 October 2023
- World Cup TBC - October/November 2023
- IWAS Games, 1-9 December 2023

Para Badminton

- Spanish Para Badminton International 2023, 20-26 February
- Spanish Para Badminton International 2023, Level 2, 1-5 March
- Brazil Para Badminton International 2023, 9-16 April
- Thailand Para Badminton International 2023, 9-14 May 2023
- Bahrain Para Badminton International 2023, 17-22 May 2023
- Canada Para Badminton International 2023, 14-18 June
- Uganda Para Badminton International, 2023, 3-9 July
- 4 Nations Para Badminton International 2023, 2-6 August
- Indonesia Para Badminton International 2023, 4-10 September
- Western Australia Para Badminton International 2023, 1-5 October
- Asian Para Games 2023, Hangzhou, 20-28 October
- Japan Para Badminton International 2023, 7-12 November
- Dubai Para Badminton International 2023, 13-17 December

States	Number of Grandmasters
Tamil Nadu	29
Maharashtra	11
West Bengal	10
Delhi	6
Telangana	5

Harmanpreet Kaur created a record for playing the most number of T20Is

Indian women's cricket team skipper Harmanpreet Kaur created a record for playing the most number of T20Is. The 33-year-old Harmanpreet became the first cricketer ever (men or women) to get to the milestone of 150 matches in the shortest duration of the time.

Harmanpreet is followed by Team India captain Rohit Sharma – 148 T20I matches and former New Zealand Women captain Suzie Bates, – 143 T20Is.



Vignesh won the title of 80th Grand Master

- The 24th Northwest 2023 Chess Series was held in Germany and the final of the series was played between India's Vignesh from Tamil Nadu and Germany's LijaSnedir.
- Vignesh became India's 80th Chess Grandmaster by winning the tournament, and he became Tamil Nadu's 29th Chess Grandmaster.
- Currently, 29 out of 80 chess grandmasters in India are from Tamil Nadu.



International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF 2023:

The 2023 Shooting World Cup of the International Shooting Federation is underway in Cairo, Egypt. The competition was held for Rifle and Pistol categories.

In that match

Indian 10m Air Rifle Mixed team of Narmada Nithin Raju and Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil

In the 10m Air Pistol Mixed team Rhythm Sangwan and Varun Tomar have bagged the Gold medals.

19-year-old Varun also won bronze in the 10m Air Pistol Men event.



1st Snow Marathon held at Bhaderwah in Jammu:

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (North) in association with Real Sports India along with local administration, Amazing Bhaderwah Tourism Association (ABTA) organized the maiden 1st Snow Marathon in Bhaderwah, Jammu on 26 February 2023.

In order to celebrate the 75 years of India's Independence, G20 India Presidency the marathon was conducted, nearly 130 runners participated in the marathon from across the country.



Women T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament 2023:

The 8th Women's T20 Cricket World Cup was held in South Africa.

The final match of the tournament was played between Australia and South Africa, in which Australia won the World Cup trophy by defeating South Africa by 19 runs.

Also, this is the 6th championship title for the Australian team in history.



14th Asian Lawn Bowl Championship:

- The 14th Asian Lawn Bowl Championship was held in Malaysia.
- The Indian team won a total of 5 medals in this competition namely 1 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.
- The women's four-member team consisting of Nayanmoni Saikia, Lovely Choubey, Pinky Singh and Ruparani Tirgi stood first place and won the gold medal.
- Pinky Singh, Tania Chaudhary, Ruparani Tirgi team won silver in women's triples.
- In women's doubles, Lovely Choubey and Nayanmoni Saikia tied for 2nd place.
- Pudul Sanwal finished 2nd in the men's singles.
- In the men's four-member category, the team consisting of Sunil Bahadur, Chandankumar Singh, Mridul Por Kohain and Dinesh Kumar won the bronze medal.



ITTF Para Open Table Tennis Tournament 2023

The ITTF Para Open Table Tennis Tournament was held in Egypt from 25th to 27th February 2023.

So far India has won 8 medals in this competition namely 2 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze.



13th Senior Women's National Hockey Tournament:

The 13th Chennai Women's National Hockey Tournament was held in Andhra Pradesh.

The final match of the tournament was between Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh defeated Maharashtra 5-1 to win the title.

In this competition

- Best Goalkeeper Award – Sonal Minj (Jharkhand),
- Best Defender Award – Pradeepa Arya (Madhya Pradesh),
- Best Midfielder Award – Manashree Narendra Shedake (Maharashtra)
- Best Forward Award – Albela Rani Toppo (Jharkhand)



Qatar Open International ATP Tennis tournament 2023

The Qatar Open International Tennis Tournament held at the Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex in Doha, Qatar from February 20 to 25, 2023.

The winners of the tournament



Ibrahim Moustafa ranking series 2023:

The Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 wrestling tournament was held in Alexandria, Egypt from February 23 to 26, 2023, The Ibrahim Moustafa 2023 was this year's second-ranking series after the Zagreb Open.

Ankit Gulia won the medal after Iranian 67 kg Olympic champion Mohammadreza Abdolhamid Geraei withdrew from the bronze medal match.



IMPORTANT DAYS

1 February Indian Coast Guard Day:

Indian Coast Guard Day Theme

The Indian Coast Guard has not set any theme for Indian Coast Guard Day 2023. Usually, Indian Coast Guard dedicates a theme for the Indian Coast Guard Day. Mostly Indian Coast Guard Day is celebrated by sharing the history, services, and achievements of the Indian Coast Guard and honoring their contribution to protecting the country's maritime since its establishment.

Indian Coast Guard Day Quotes

Check out the following quotes by and on Indian Coast Guards. These quotes are dedicated to reflecting the best of the Indian Coast Guard and what they stand for.

“Our men and women in uniform, are a force for good throughout the world, and that is nothing to apologize for”- Indian Coast Guard.

“We do this job because every once in a while someone is out there without hope, desperately praying for their life, and we get to be the answer”- Indian Coast Guard

2 February – World Wetlands Day:

Every year on 2nd February, World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in Ramsar, Iran. It was first celebrated in 1997. World Wetlands Day 2020 theme is 'Wetlands and biodiversity'.

2 February - RA Awareness Day:

RA Awareness Day is Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Day and is observed on 2 February to spread awareness for patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis.

3 February- National Golden Retriever Day:

In some countries, February 3rd is National Golden Retriever Day. There is a good reason why the Golden Retriever is one of the most popular dog breeds. They are ideal best friends for any dog lover and a cause for celebration and appreciation because of their placid disposition, intelligence, and playfulness.

4 February - World Cancer Day:

Every year on 4 February World Cancer Day is observed globally and is celebrated by WHO to aware people of the disease Cancer and how to cure it. The 2020 theme is 'I Am and I Will'. According to WHO, the theme is an empowering call to action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future.

4 February – Surajkund Crafts Mela:

Surajkund Crafts Mela is celebrated at Surajkund, District Faridabad, Haryana from 4 February to 20 February 2023. It is a celebration of Indian folk traditions and cultural heritage. In this Mela, the richness, and diversity of handicrafts, handlooms, and cultural fabric of India are seen. It is one of the most famous fairs, organized every year in Surajkund, Haryana, Near Delhi, by Haryana Tourism Department to promote handicrafts items.

6 February: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation:

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6 February to spread awareness and educate people about the consequences and problems that females faced due to genital mutilation. The theme for 2023 is “Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM”.

6 February to 12 February - International Development Week:

International Development Week (IDW) is celebrated from 6 February to 12 February and this year marks the 30th anniversary of International Development Week in Canada. This day informs about different roles and career paths in the international development sector.

8 February - Safer Internet Day:

This year, it is celebrated on 8 February. The day calls for all stakeholders to join together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, mainly for children and young people.

10 February - National Deworming Day:

It is observed on 10 February. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to make every child worm-free in the country.

10 February - World Pulses Day:

It is observed on 10 February to spread awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.

11 February - World Day of the Sick:

It is observed on 11 February. The day was introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illness.

11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science:

It is observed on 11 February to recognize the role of women and girls in science, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change. Therefore, the day focuses on achieving full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. Also, to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

12 February - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday:

12 February is celebrated as the birthday of the most popular president in United States history namely Abraham Lincoln. This day is also known as Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln Day, or Lincoln Day.

12 February - National Productivity Day:

It is observed on 12 February annually to increase the productivity culture in India. It is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) with a theme.

13 February - World Radio Day:

World Radio Day is celebrated on 13 February to raise awareness about the importance of Radio. In several countries, it is the primary source for providing information.

13 February – Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary:

13th February is celebrated as the birth anniversary of the Nightingale of India i.e. Sarojini Naidu.

She was born on 13 February 1879 in Hyderabad to scientist and philosopher Aghornath Chattopadhyaya and Barada Sundari Devi.

She was the first Indian woman President of the Indian National Congress and also the first woman governor of an Indian state that is Governor of United Province which is now known as Uttar Pradesh.

13 February - International Epilepsy Day:

Every year the second Monday of February is observed as International Epilepsy Day, and this year it is celebrated on 14 February which coincides with Valentine's Day. The day spreads awareness and educates people about the true facts of epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.

International Epilepsy Day 2023 Theme

This year 2023, International Epilepsy Day 2023 theme is "Stigma," a call to patients, governments, world leaders, and the concerned stakeholders those are in positions of power with an intention to remove the stigma around epilepsy, work collaboratively to raise neglected awareness about the challenges faced by epilepsy patients.

14 February- World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day:

Every year on February 14, there is a celebration called World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day with the goal of bringing attention to and educating people about congenital heart defects.

16 February- World Anthropology Day:

Every year on the third Thursday of February, World Anthropology Day is observed. And it occurs on February 16 this year. The day is designated to honour the untapped area and educate the general public about anthropology. However, let's first define anthropology before moving on to the history and significance of World Anthropology Day.

20 February - Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day

Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day is celebrated on 20 February as on this day it gained the status of the Union Territory and was named Arunachal Pradesh.

Interesting Facts About Arunachal Pradesh

1. The name of the state is mentioned in ancient Hindu literature such as Kalika-Purana, Mahabharata and Ramayana.
2. Arunachal Pradesh is the largest of the seven northeastern Indian states (the seven sisters).
3. There are no functional airports in the state it depends on the airport of nearby Assam state.
4. Tawang Monastery, the largest monastery in India is situated in Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Arunachal Pradesh is called the land of the rising sun as it receives the first sunrise in the country.
6. It is Dong Valley in the state that receives the first rays of the sun falling on it at a height of 1240 meters.
7. Arunachal Pradesh shares an international border with China in the north, Myanmar in the east, and Bhutan in the west.
8. The meaning of the name Arunachal in the local language is the Land of Dawn Lit Mountains.
9. Even local tourists require permits to roam the state.
10. Arunachal Pradesh is inhabited by the world's largest diversity of ethnic tribal groups and subgroups.

20 February- Mizoram Foundation Day:

Every year on February 20, Mizoram, one of the northeastern Indian states, observes its Foundation Day. This marks the day in 1987 when the state became the official 23rd state of India.

Some facts about Mizoram:

1. Mizoram is the second least populous state in the country, according to the 2011 Census.
2. Over 84 per cent of the area is the state is forested, according to the India State of Forest Report 2021.
3. A total of 21 hill ranges are present in the state, ranging from 1,000 metres to over 2,000 metres in height.
4. Mizoram has a literacy rate of 91.3 per cent, as per the 2011 Census, making it the third most literate state in India.

5. The state bird of Mizoram is the vavu or Hume's bar-tailed pheasant. The state animal is the serow, while the state flower is the red vanda.
6. The Tropic of Cancer runs through Mizoram at the Maubuang Lung sai hamlet in Aizawl district. A stone was erected by the state government in 2016 to mark the spot.

20 February - World Day of Social Justice:

World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February to encourage people to see how social justice affects poverty eradication. The main aim of this day is to achieve full employment and support for social integration. This day tackle issues like poverty, exclusion, and unemployment.

21 February - International Mother Language Day:

International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually on 21 February worldwide to aware of the diversity of the language and its variety. This day promotes the awareness of language and cultural diversity across the world. On 17 November 1999, it was first announced by UNESCO.

22 February - World Thinking Day:

World Thinking Day is also known as Thinking Day and is observed on 22 February annually by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries.

23 February- World Peace and Understanding Day:

Every year on February 23, World Understanding and Peace Day is celebrated. Actually, this day serves to remember Rotary International's inaugural convention. This gathering of businessmen was intended to be a place where their backgrounds didn't matter, which set off a series of developments that eventually resulted in the creation of Rotary International.

24 February – Central Excise Day:

Central Excise Day is observed in India on 24 February every year to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way to prevent corruption in the manufacturing business and to carry out the best possible exercise services in India.

27 February - World NGO Day:

World NGO Day is observed every year on February 27, N.G.O. is an acronym for non-governmental organization, and it was observed for the first time on February 27, 2014.

World NGO Day is a day set aside to recognize, celebrate and honor the fundamental contributions and profound impact that these independent organizations have had on the world.

28 February – National Science Day:

National Science Day is celebrated every year in India on 28 February to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by the Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. He discovered the Raman Effect on 28 February 1928 and for this discovery, he was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics subject in 1930.

28 February - Rare Disease Day:

The day raises awareness and generates change for the people who are living with a rare disease, their families, and their carers

So, these are the National and International important Days and Dates of February month 2023 that may help in the preparation of various competitive examinations.

